



Being a Discourse of RIVERS, and
FISH-PONDS, and FISH,
and FISHING.

Not unworthy the perusal of most Anglers.

The second Edition much enlarged.

John 21.3. *Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing,
they say unto him, We also go with thee.*

London, Printed by T.M. for Rich. Marriot, and are
to be sold at his Shop in St. Dunstons
Church-yard Fleetstreet. 1655.

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Walton's Angler 2^d edition.
12. 1655.

Park in a MS note of his
says that this 2^d edition is
still more rare than the
first. the plates are
engraved by Lambert;
in comparing them with
the plates in the first edition
the impressions in this second
are quite as good as the first. ~

B  L



To the Right Worshipful
JOHN OFFLEY
Of MADELY Manor in the
County of *Stafford*, Esq;
My most honoured friend.

SIR,



*Have made
so ill use of
your former
favours, as by
them to be
encouraged to intreat that
they may be enlarged to the
patronage and protection
of this Book; and I have
put on a modest confidence,
that I shall not be denied,*

The Epistle

because it is a Discourse of
Fishi and Fishing, which
you both know so well, and
love and practice so much.

You are assured (though
there be ignorant men of an
other belief) that Angling
is an Art; and you know that
Art better then any that I
know; and, that this is truth,
is demonstrated by the fruits
of that pleasant labor which
you enjoy when you purpose
to give rest to your mind,
and divest your self of your
more serious businesse, and
(which is often) dedicate a
day

DEDICATORY.

day or two to this Recreation.

At which time, if common Anglers should attend you, and be eye-witnesses of the success, not of your fortune, but your skill, it would doubtless beget in them an emulation to be like you, and that emulation might beget an industrious diligence to be so: but, I know it is not attainable by common capacities. And there be now many men of great wisdom, learning, and experience, that love and practice this Art, that

Religion A 3 *know*

The Epistle
know I speak the truth.

Sir, this pleasant curiosity
of Fish & Fishing (of which
you are so great a Ma-
ster) has been thought wor-
thy the pens and practices
of divers in other Nations,
which have been reputed
men of great Learning and
Wisdom; and amongst
those of this Nation, I re-
member Sir Henry Wot-
ton (a dear lover of this
Art) has told me, that his
intentions were to write a
Discourse of the Art, and in
the praise of Angling; and
doubtless

DEDICATORY.

doubtless he had done so, if death had not prevented him; the remembrance of which hath often made mee sorry, for if he had lived to do it, then the unlearned Angler had seen some better Treatise of this Art, a Treatise worthy his perusal, which (though some have undertaken) I could never yet see in English.

But mine may be thought as weak, and as unworthy of common view; and I do here freely confess, that I should rather excuse my
A 4 Self,

The Epistle, &c.

self, then censure others, my own Discourse being liable to so many exceptions; against which; you (Sir) might make this one, That it can contribute nothing to your knowledg. And lest a longer Epistle may diminish your pleasure, I shall not adventure to make this any longer then to adde this following truth, That I am really, Sir,

*Your most affectionate Friend,
and most humble Servant,*

Iz. W^a.

To the
READER of this Discourse;
But especially
To the honest *ANGLER*.

Think fit to tell every
Reader, these follow-
ing Truths, that I did
neither *undertake*, nor
write, nor *publish*, and
much less *own* this discourse to please
my self, and wish it may not displease
others: for I have confest there are
many defects in it.

And yet I cannot doubt, but that
by it some Readers may receive so
much *Pleasure* or *Profit* as may make
it worthy the time of their perusal, if
they be not very busie men. And
this is all the confidence that I can
put on concerning the merit of what
is here offered to their consideration
and censure.

To the Reader.

And I wish the *Reader* also to take notice, that in writing of it, I have made my self a *Recreation* of a *Recreation*; and that it might prove so to him, and not read *dull* and *tediously*, I have in several places mixt (not any scurrillity, but) some innocent, harmelesse mirth; of which, if thou be a severe, sowe complectioned man, then I here disallow thee to be a competent Judg; for *Divines* say, *There are offences given, and offences not given, but taken.*

And I am the willinger to justify the pleasant part of it, because, though it is known I can be serious at seasonable times; yet the whole discourse is a kind of picture of my own disposition in such dayes and times, as I allow to my self, when honest *Nat.* and *R.R.* and I go a fishing together.

And let me add this, that he that likes not the book, should like the picture of the *Trout*, and the other fish, which I dare commend, because they concern not my self.

Next,

To the Reader.

Next, let me tell the Reader, that in that which is the more useful part of this *Discourse*; that is to say, the observations of the *Nature*, and *Breeding*, and *seasons*, and *catching of fish*. I am not so simple as not to know, but that a captious Reader may find exceptions against something said of some of these; and therefore I must intreat him to consider, that experience teaches us to know, that several countries alter the time, and I think almost the manner of fishes breeding, but doubtlesse of their being in season; as may appear by three Rivers in *Murmok-shire*, namely, *Seworne*, *Wye*, and *Usk*; where *Gambden* (*Brit. fol. 633*) observes, that in the River *Wye*, *Salmon* are in season from *September* to *April*, and we are certaine, that in the other two, and in *Thames* and *Trent*, and in most other Rivers they bee in season the six hotter months.

Now for the Art of *catching fish*, that is to say, how to make a man that

To the Reader.

that was none, to be an Angler by a Book; he that undertakes it, shall undertake a harder task then Mr. *Hales*, that in a printed Book (called, *The Private School of Defence*) undertook to teach the *Science* or *Art* of Fencing, and was laught at for his labour. Not but that many useful things might be observed out of that *Book*; but that the *Art* was not to be taught by words: Nor is the *Art* of *Angling*; nor have I undertaken to leave out nothing that might be said of it, but to acquaint the *Reader* with many things that are not usually known to every Angler; and I shall leave gleanings and observations enough to be made out of the experience of all that love and practice this Recreation, to which I shall encourage them. For *Angling* may be said to be like the *Mathematicks*; that can never be fully learnt; at least, not so fully, but that there will still be more new experiments left for the tryal of other men that succeed us.

But

To the Reader.

But I think all that love this game; may here learn something that may be worth their money, if they be not poor and needy men; and in case they be, I then wish them to forbear to buy it; for I write not to get money, but for pleasure, and this Discourse boasts of no more; for I hate to promise much, and fail.

But pleasure I have found both in the search and conference about what is here offered to the Readers *view* and *censure*; I wish him as much in the perusal of it, and so might here take my leave: but must stay a little and tell him, that whereas it is said by many, that in Fly-fishing for a *Trout*, the Angler must observe his twelve several flies for the twelve months of the year; I say, he that follows that rule, shall be as sure to catch fish, as he that makes hay by the fair dayes in an Almanack, and no surer; for those very flies that use to appear about and on the water in one month of the year, may the following

To the Reader.

lowing yeare come almost a month sooner or later, as the same yeare proves colder or hotter; and yet in the following Discourse I have set down the twelve Flyes that are in reputation with many Anglers, and they may serve to give him some light concerning them. And he may note, that there is in *Wales*, and other Countries peculiar flyes, proper to the particular place or Country; and doubtless, unless a man makes a fly to counterfeit that very fly in that place he is like to lose his labour: But for the generality, three or four flyes neat and rightly made, and not too big, serve for a *Trout* in most Rivers all the Summer. And for Winter *Fly-fishing*, it is as useful as an Almanack out of date. And of these, (because as no man is born an Artist, so no man is born an Angler), I thought fit to give thee this notice.

When I have told the Reader, that in this second Impression there are many

To the Reader.

many enlargements, gathered both by my own observation, and the communication of friends; I shall stay him no longer than to wish him a rainy evening to read this following Discourse; and that (if he be an Angler,) the East wind may never blow when he goes a fishing.

I. W.

To

To the Reader.

many improvements, gathered both
by my own observation, and the
communication of friends; I shall
first print no longer than of what I
am owing to this following
industry, and that of hope as An-
gels, the last time may be very
when he goes a flying.

I. W.



To my dear Brother-in-law,
Mr. IZ Walton, upon his
Complete Angler.

ERasmus in his learned Colloquies,
Has mixt some mirth ; that by varieties
He might entice all readers : for in him
Each child may wade, or tallest giant swim.
And such is this discourse : there's none so low,
Or highly learn'd, to whom hence may not flow
Pleasure and information : both which are
Taught us with so much art, that I might swear
Safely, the choicest Critick cannot tell,
Whether your matchlesse judgment most excell
In Angling or its praise ; where commendation
First charms, then makes an art a recreation.

'Twas so to me : who saw the chearfull Spring
Pictur'd in every meadow, heard birds sing
Sonnets in every grove ; saw fishes play
In the cool crysell streams, like lambs in May :
And they may play, till Anglers read this Book ;
But after, 'tis a wise fish scapes a hook.

JO. FLOUD, Mr. of Arts.

To the Reader of the
Complete Angler.

First mark the Title well ; my Friend that gave it
Has made it good ; this book deserves to have it.
For he that views it with judicious looks,
Shall find it full of art, baits, lines and hooks.

The

The World the River is ; both you and I,
And all mankind are either fish or fry :
If we pretend to reason, first or last
His baits will tempt us, and his hooks hold fast.
Pleasure or profit, either prose or rhyme,
If not at first, will doubtlesse take's in time.

Here sits in secret btest Theologe,
Waited upon by grave Philosophie
Both naturall and morall ; Historie
Deck'd and adorn'd with flowers of Poetrie ;
The matter and expression striving which
Shall most excell in worth, yet not seem rich :
There is no danger in his baits, that hook
Will prove the safest, that is surest took.

Nor are we caught alone, but (which is best)
We shall be wholsom, and be toothsome drest :
Drest to be fed, not to be fed upon ;
And danger of a surfet here is none.
The solid food of serious Contemplation
Is sauc'd here with such harmlesse Recreation,
That an ingenuous and religious minde
Cannot inquire for more then it may finde
Ready at once prepar'd, either to excite
Or satisfie a curious appetite.

More praise is due ; for 'tis both positive
And truth, which once was interrogative,
And utter'd by the Poet then in jest,

Et Piscatorem piscis amare potest.

C. H. Master of Arts.

To my deer Friend, Mr. IZ. WALTON,
in praise of Angling: which we both love.

Down by this wandring Streams smooth side,
Adorn'd and per sum'd with the pride
Of Flora's wardrobe, where the shrill
Quire of the air expresse their skill,

First

First in alternate harmonie,
And then in Chorus all agree;
Where the charm'd fish, as ecstas'd
With sounds, to his own throat deny'd,
Scorns his dull element, and springs
In th' air, as if his fins were wings:
'Tis here, that pleasures sweet and high
Prostrate to our imbraces lie,
Such as to bodie, soul or name
Create no sicknesse, sin nor shame.
Roses not fenc'd with pricks, grow here;
No sting to th' honey-bag is neer:
But what's perhaps there prejudice,
They difficultie want, and priqe.

An obvious rod, a twist of hair,
And hook hid in some Insect, are
Emblems of skill would feed the wish
Of th' Epicure, or fill his dish.

In this clear stream let fall a Grub,
And strait take up a Dace or Chub,
I'th' mud your worm provokes a snig,
Which being fast, if it prove big,
The Gotham folly will be found
Discreet; ere tane it must be drown'd.
The Tench (Physician of the brook)
In that dead hole expects your hook;
Which having first your pastime been,
Serves next for meat, or medicine.
And there the cunning Carp you may
Beguile with paste, if you'l but stay
And watch, in time you'l have your wish,
For paste and patience catch this fish.
Ambush'd behind that rooe doth stay
A Pike, to catch and be a pray:
And in that nimble Ford (no doubt)
Your false Fly cheats a dapled Trout.

Whilest

Whilest you these creatures wisely chuse
To practise on, which to your use
Owe their Creation, and when
You Fishes chuse to rescue Men;
To plot, delude and circumvent,
In snare and spoile, are innocent.

Here by these crystall streams you may
Preserve a conscience, clear as they.
And when by sullen thoughts you finde
Your barrased (not busied) minde
In fable melancholy clad,
Distemper'd, serious, turning sad;
Hence fetch your cure, cast in your bait,
All anxious thoughts and cares will strait
Fly with such speed, you'l seem to be
Possess'd with the Hydrophobie:
Then this streams calmnesse in your brest,
And smoothnesse on your brow shall rest.
Away with Sports of charge and noise,
And give me cheap and quiet Joyes.

Such as *Alices* game pursue,
Their fate oft makes that fable true.

The sick or sullen *Hawk*, to day
Flyes not: to morrow, quite away.

Patience and *purse*, to *Cards* and *Dice*,
Too oft are made a sacrifice:

The Daughters dower, th' inheritance
O' th' Son depend on one mad chance.

And by that fading *saplesse* tree
About which th' *Ivie* twinde you see,
His fate's foretold, that fondly places
His blisse in *woman's* soft imbraces.

All pleasure but the *Angler's*, bring
In th' taile repentance, like a sting.

Then on this bank let me lie down,
Free from the toylsome Sword and Gown;

And

*And pitie those that shall affect
To conquer Nations, and protect.
My Reed affords me such content,
Delights so sweet, so innocent,
As falls but seldom to the lot
Of Scepters, though th' are justly got.*

THO. WEAVER,
Master of Arts.

**To the Reader of my most inge-
nuous Friends Book, The
Complete Angler.**

*He that both knew, and writ the Lives of men,
Such as were once, but must not be again :
Witness, his matchless DONNE and WOTTON, by
Whose aid, he could their speculations try :
He that convers'd with Angels, such as were
Oldsword and Featlie, each a shining Star
Shewing the way to Bethlem ; each a Saint ;
Compar'd to whom, our Zealots now but paint :
He that our pious and learn'd Morley knew,
And from him suck'd wit and devotion too :
He that from these such excellencies fetch'd,
That he could tell how high, and far they reach'd ;
What learning this, what graces th' other had ;
And in what sev'rall dresse each soul was clad :*

Reader,

this He,

this Fisher-man comes forth,

*And, in these Fishers weeds would shroud his worth.
Now his mute Harp is on a willow hung,
With which, when finely toucht, and fitly strung,
He could friends passions for these times allay ;
Or chain his fellow Anglers from their prey.*

But

But now the musick of his pen is still,
And he sits by a brook watching a quill:
Where with a fixt eye, and a ready hand,
He studies first to hook, and then to land
Some Trout, or Pearch, or Pike; and having done,
Sits on a bank, and tels how this was won,
And that escap'd his hook; which with a wile
Did eat the bait, and Fisherman beguile.

Thus whilst some vex they from their lands are thrown,
He joyes to think the waters are his own;
And like the Dutch, he gladly can agree
To live at peace now, and have Fishing free.

EDVV. POWVEL,
Master of Arts.

To his ingenuous Friend Mr. IZAAK
WALTON on his Com-
plete Angler.

SINCE 'tis become a common fate, that we
Must in this world or Fish or Fishers be;
And all neutralitie herin's deny'd,
'Tis not my fault that I am not supply'd
With those three grand essentials of your Art,
Luck, Skill and Patience: For I have a heart
That's as inclinable as others be,
Whose fortune imps their Ingenuitie.

But then what make I here, to write of that,
I'm unskill'd in, and talk I know not what?
And that in Verse too? 'Tis an itch w'ave got,
We must be scribbling, whether learn'd or not.
Nay, here's some reason for't; the forme (we see)
Clubbing with matter, makes a thing to be.
And Trains of livery'd Servitors (we know)
Makes not a Prince; but signifies hee's so.

Cyphers

Cyphers to Figures joyn'd, make summes ; and wee
Make something (Friend) when we are joyn'd to thee.

Yet I shall hardly praise, or like thy skill ;
For w^e are all prone enough to catch and kill ;
Thou need'st not make an Art on't : they that are
Once listed in the new Saints Calender,
Do't as they pray and preach by inspiration ;
No heabenrules ; or old premeditation,
Nor Antichristian acts ; who reads our Story,
Will finde ; we do't without thy Directory.

But when I think with what a pleasing Art
Thou dost thy Rules both practise and impart,
I am delighted too, as well as taught ;
And fishes leap for joy when they are caught :
I could unman my self, and wish to be
A fish, so that I might be took by thee.
Blest then are thy Companions, who, with thee
Participate of such felicitie !

Such undisturb'd, such dangerlesse delight,
That does at once both satiate and invite.
Whence more safe joy, more true contentment springs
Then from the Courts of those gay Pageants, Kings
Or great King-riders, who still hurri'd are
With those great Tyrants, Businesse and Care ;
And sling upon base acts, and filthy vice,
Spurr'd on by Ambition and by Avarice.

Whilest by some gliding River thou sit'st down,
Thy mind's thy Kingdom, and content's thy Crown,
Conversing with the silent fish, and when
Thou art killing them, thou think'st of once dead men :
And from Oblivion and the grave setst free
Names, whom thou roabst with Immortalitie.
For he that reads thy WOTTON and thy DONNE,
Can't but believe a Resurrection ;

And spite of Envie, this Encomium give,
By Thee Fish die, By Thee dead Friends revive.

ALEX. BROME.

To

To my dear Brother in law, Mr. *I. Walton*
on his *Complete Angler*.

THis Book is so like you, and you like it,
For harmlesse Mirth, Expression, Art and Wit,
That I protest ingenuously, 'tis true,
I love this Mirth, Art, Wit, the Book and You.

ROB. FLOUD, C.

Charissimo amicissimoque Fratri Domino
ISAACO WALTON, Artis
Piscatoriae peritissimo.

UNicus est Medicus reliquorum Piscis, & istis
Fas quibus est Medicum tangere, certa salus.
Hic typus est Salvatoris mirandus Iesu,
^b Litera mysterium quaelibet hujus habet. (Ὁ υἱός)
Hunc cupio, hunc capias (bone frater Arundinis) ἰχ-
^a Solveret hic pro me debita, reque Deo.
Piscis is est, & Piscator, (mihi credito) qualem
Vel Piscatorem Piscis amare velit.

^a Mat. 17. 27. the
last words of the
Chapter.

^b ἰχθὺς Piscis.

Ἰησοῦς Iesus

Χ Χριστός Christus

ὁ Θεὸς Dei

ὁ υἱός Filius











ὁ σωτὴρ Salvator.

Henry Bagley, Artium Magister.

[illegible]

*A Conference betwixt an Angler,
a Falkner, and a Hunter, each
commending his Recreation.*

PISCATOR.
VENATOR.
AUCEPS.

Pisc.     O U are well over-
taken Gentlemen,
 Y  a good morning
    to you both; I
have stretched my
legs up *Tottenham hill* to overtake
B you

you, hoping your business may occasion you towards *Ware* this fine fresh May-day in the morning.

Venat. Sir, I for my part shall almost answer your hopes, for my purpose is to drink my mornings draught at the *Thatcht House* in *Hedsden*, and I think not to rest till I come thither, where I have appointed a friend or two to meet me: but for this Gentleman that you see with me, I know not how far he intends his journey, he came so lately into my company, that I have scarce had time to ask him the question.

Auceps. Sir, I shall by your favour, bear you company as far as *Thebalds*, & there leave you, for then I turn up to a friends house who mews a Hawk for me, which I now long to see.

Venat. Sir, we are all so happy as to have a fine, fresh, cool morning, and I hope we shall each be the happier in the others company. And Gentlemen, that I may not lose yours, I shall either abate or mend my
my

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my pace to enjoy it, knowing that (as the Italians say) *Good company makes the way to seem the shorter.*

Anceps. It may do so Sir, with the help of good discourse, which mee thinks we may promise from you that both look and speak so cheerfully : and for my part I promise you, as an invitation to it, that I will bee as free and open hearted, as discretion will allow me to bee with strangers.

Venat. And Sir, I promise the like.

Pisc. I am right glad to hear your answers, and in confidence you speak the truth, I shall put on a boldnesse to ask you Sir, Whether businesse or pleasure caused you to be so early up, and walk so fast, for this other Gentleman hath declared he is going to see a Hawk, that a friend mewes for him.

Ven. Sir, A mixture of both, a little businesse and more pleasure, for I intend this day to do all my business,

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and then bestow another day or two in hunting the *Otter*, which a friend that I go to meet, tells me, is much pleasanter then any other chase whatsoever; howsoever I mean to try it; for to morrow morning we shal meet a pack of Otter dogs of noble *Mr. Sadlers* upon *Ammwell-hill*, who will be there so early, that they intend to prevent the Sun-rising.

Pisc. Sir, my fortune has answered my desires, and my purpose is to bestow a day or two in helping to destroy some of those villanous vermin, for I hate them perfectly, because they love fish so well, or rather, because they destroy so much; indeed so much, that in my judgement all men that keep *Otter Dogs* ought to have pensions from the Commonwealth to incourage them to destroy the very breed of those base *Otters*, they do so much mischief.

Ven. But what say you to the Foxes of the Nation, would not you as willingly have them destroyed? for
doubtlesse

doubtlesse they do as much mischief as *Otters* do.

Pisc. Oh Sir, if they do, it is not so much to me and my Fraternity as those base Vermine the *Otters* do.

Auc. Why Sir, I pray, of what Fraternity are you, that you are so angry with the poor *Otters*?

Pisc. I am (Sir) a brother of the *Angle*, and therefore an enemy to the *Otter*: for you are to note, that we Anglers all love one another, and therefore do I hate the *Otter* even for their sakes who are of my brotherhood.

Ven. And I am a lover of Hounds, I have followed many a pack of dogs many a mile, and heard many merry men make sport and scoff at Anglers.

Auc. And I professe my self a Falkner, and have heard many grave serious men pity them, 'tis such a heavy, contemptible, dull recreation.

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Pi/c. You know Gentlemen, 'tis an easie thing to scoff at any Art or Recreation; a little wit mixt with ill nature, confidence and malice will do it; but though they often venture boldly, yet they are often caught even in their owne trap, according to that of *Lucian*, the father of the family of Scoffers.

*Lucian well skill'd in scoffing, this hath writ,
Friend, that's your folly which you think your wit:
This you vent oft, void both of wit and fear,
Mearning another, when your self you jeere.*

If to this you add what *Solomon* sayes of Scoffers, That *they are an abomination to mankind*. Let him that thinks fit be a Scoffer still, I account them enemies to me, and to all that love *vertue* and *angling*.

And for you that have heard many grave serious men pity Anglers; let me tell you Sir, there be many men that are by others taken to be serious grave men, which wee contemn and pity. Men that are taken to be grave because Nature hath made them

them of a sower complexion, money-getting-men; men that spend all their time first in getting, and next in anxious care to keep it; men that are condemned to be rich, and then alwayes busie or discontented: for these poor-rich-men, we Anglers pity them perfectly, and stand in no need to borrow their thoughts to think our selves happy. No, no, Sir, we enjoy a contentedness above the reach of such dispositions, and as ingenuous * *Montagne* sayes like himself freely, [When *In Apol. for Ka. Sebena.*
 ' my Cat and I entertaine
 ' each other with mutual apish tricks
 ' (as playing with a garter) who
 ' knowes but that I make my Cat
 ' more sport then she makes me: shall
 ' I conclude her to be simple, that has
 ' her time to begin or refuse sportive-
 ' nefs as freely as I my selfe have?
 ' Nay, who knowes but that our a-
 ' greeing no better is a defect of my
 ' not understanding her language (for
 ' doubtlesse Cats talk and reason
 B 4 with

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'with one another) and that shee
'laughs at and censures my folly for
'making her sport, and pities me for
'understanding her no better?']

Thus freely speaks *Mountagne* concerning Cats, and I hope I may take as great a liberty to blame any man, let him be never so serious, that hath not heard what Anglers can say in the justification of their Art and Recreation, which I may again tell you is so full of pleasure, that we need not borrow their thoughts to think our selves happy.

Ven. Sir, you have almost amazed me, for though I am no Scoffer, yet I have (I pray let me speak it without offence) alwayes looked upon Anglers as more patient and more simple men, then I fear I shal find you to be.

Pisc. Sir I hope you will not judge my earnestness to be impatience: and for my simplicity, if by that you mean a harmlesnesse, or that simplicity which was usually found in the
Primi-

Primitive Christians, who were (as most Anglers are) quiet men, and followed peace; men that were so simply-wise as not to sell their consciences to buy riches, & with them vexation & a fear to dy. If you mean such simple men as lived in those times when there were fewer Lawyers, when men might have had a Lordship safely conveyed to them in a piece of parchment no bigger then your hand (though several sheets will not do it safely in this wiser age), I say, Sir, if you take us Anglers to be such simple men as I have spoke of, then my self and those of my Profession will bee glad to be so understood: But if by simplicity you meant to expresse a general defect in those that professe and practice the excellent Art of Angling, I hope in time to disabuse you and make the contrary appear so evidently, if you will have but patience to hear me, that I shall remove all the Anticipations that discourse, or time, or prejudice have possesse

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you with, against that laudable and ancient Art, for I know it is worthy the *Knowledge* and *Practice* of a wise man.

But (Gentlemen) though I be able to do this, I am not so unmannerly as to ingross all the discourse to my self; and therefore you two having declared your selves, the one to be a lover of Hawks, the other of Hounds, I shall be most glad to hear what you can say in the commendation of that Recreation which you love and practice; and having heard what you can say, I shall be glad to exercise your attention with what I can say concerning my own Recreation, and by this means we shall make the way to seem the shorter: and if you like my motion, I would have Mr. *Falkner* to begin.

Auc. Your motion is consented to with all my heart, and to testify it, I will begin as you have desired me.

And first, for the Element that I
use,

use to trade in, which is the *Air*, an Element of more worth then weight; an Element that doubtlesse exceeds both the *Earth* and *Water*; for though I sometimes deal in both, yet the air is most properly mine, I and my Hawks use that most, and it yeilds us most Recreation; it stops not the high soaring of my noble generous *Falcon*, in it she ascends to such a height, as the dul eyes of beasts and fish are not able to reach to; their bodies are too grosse for such high elevations: in the air my troops of Hawks soare up on high, and when they are lost in the sight of men, then they attend upon and converse with the gods, therefore I think my *Eagle* is so justly stiled, *Foves faithful servant in Ordinary*: and that very *Falcon* that I am now going to see, deserves no meaner a Title, for she usually in her flight indangers her self, (like the Son of *Dedalus*) to have her wings scorcht by the Suns heat, but her mettle makes her carelesse of danger

ger, she then heeds nothing, but makes her nimble Pinions cut the fluid aire, and then makes her highway over the steepest mountains and deepest rivers, and in her glorious carere, looks with contempt upon those high steeples and Magnificent Palaces which we adore and wonder at; from which height I can make her to descend by a word from my mouth (which she both knows and obeyes) to accept of meat from my hand, to own me for her Master, to go home with me, and be willing the next day to afford me the like recreation.

And more, this Element of aire which I professe to trade in, the worth of it is such, and it is of such necessity, that no creature whatsoever, not only those numerous creatures that feed on the face of the earth, but those various creatures that have their dwelling within the waters, every creature that hath life in its nostrils stands in need of my
Element,

Element. The waters cannot preserve the fish without air, witnesse the not breaking of ice in an extreme frost; the reason is, for that if the inspiring and expiring organ of any animal be stopt, it suddenly yeilds to Nature and dyes. Thus necessary is *aire* to the existence both of *fish* and *beasts*, nay even to man himself; that aire or breath of life with which God at first inspired mankind, he if he wants it, dies presently, becomes a sad object to all that lov'd and beheld him, and in an instant turnes to putrifaction.

Nay more, the very birds of the Aire (those that be not Hawks) are both so many and so useful and pleasant to mankind, that I must not let them pass without some observations; They both feed and refresh him: feed him with their choice bodies, and refresh him with their heavenly voices. I will not undertake to mention the several kinds of fowle by which this is done; and his curious palate

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palate pleased by day, and which with their very excrements afford him a soft lodging at night. These I will passe by, but not those little nimble Musicians of the aire, that warble forth their curious Ditties, with which nature hath furnished them to the shame of Art.

As first the *Lark*, when she means to rejoyce, to cheer her self and those that hear her, she then quits the earth and sings as she ascends higher into the aire, and having ended her heavenly Employment, growes then mute and sad to think shee must descend to the dull earth, which shee would not touch but for necessity.

How doth the *Black-bird* and *Thrassell* with their melodious voices bid welcome to the cheerful Spring, and in their first Months warble forth such ditties as no Art or Instrument can reach to?

Nay, the smaller birds also do the like in their particular seasons, as name-

namely the *Leverock*, the *Tit-lark*, the little *Liner*, and the honest *Robin*, that loves man-kind both alive and dead.

But the *Nightingale* (another of my Airy Creatures,) breathes such sweet lowd musick out of her little instrumental throat, that it might make mankind to think Miracles are not ceased. He that at midnight, (when the very laborer sleeps securely) should hear (as I have very often) the clear aires, the sweet descants, the natural rising and falling, the doubling and redoubling of her voice might well be lifted above earth, and say, Lord, what Musick hast thou provided for the Saints in Heaven, when thou affordest men such musick on earth!

And this makes me the lesse to wonder at the many *Aviaries* in *Italy*, or at the great charge of *Varro* his *Aviarie*, the ruines of which are yet to be seen in *Rome*, and is still so famous there, that it is reckoned for
one

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One of those Notables which men of
rain Nations either record, or lay
up in their memories when they re-
turn from travel.

This for the birds of pleasure, of
which very much more might bee
said. My next shall be of Birds of
political use; I think 'tis not to be
doubted that Swallowes have been
taught to carry Letters betwixt two
Armies. But 'tis certain that when
the Turks besieged *Malta* or *Rodes*
(I now remember not which 'twas) *Pigeons*
are then related to carry and
recarry Letters. And Mr. G. *San-*
dis in his Travels (*fol. 269.*) relates
it to bee done betwixt *Aleppo* and
Babylon. But if that be disbelieved,
'tis not to be doubted that the *Dove*
was sent by *Noah*, to give him notice
of Land when to him all appeared to
be Sea, and proved a faithful Mes-
senger. And for the Sacrifices of
the Law, a paire of *Turtle Doves* or
young *Pigeons* were as well accepted
as costly *Bulls* and *Rams*. And when
God

God would feed the Prophet *Elijah*, (1 *King*.17.) after a kind of miraculous manner hee did it by *Ravens*, who brought him meat morning and evening. Lastly, the Holy Ghost when he descended visibly upon our Saviour, did it by assuming the shape of a *Dove*. And to conclude this part of my Discourse, pray remember these wonders were done by birds of the aire, the Element in which they and I take so much pleasure.

There is also a little contemptible winged Creature (an Inhabitant of my Aerial Element) namely the laborious *Bee*, of whose *Prudence*, *Policy* and regular Government of their own Commonwealth I might say much, as also of their several kind, and how useful their honey and wax is both for meat and Medicines to mankind; but I will leave them to their sweet labor, without the least disturbance, believing them to be all very busie amongst the herbs and
flowers

flowers that we see nature puts forth
this *May* morning.

And now to return to my hawks
from whom I have made too long a
Digression; you are to note, that
they are usually distinguished into
two kinds; namely the long-wing-
ed and the short-winged Hawk: of
the first kind, there be chiefly in use
amongst us in this Nation,

The *Gerfalcon* and *Ferkin*.

The *Falcon* and *Tassel-gentel*.

The *Laner* and *Laneret*.

The *Bockerel* and *Bockeret*.

The *Saker* and *Sakeret*.

The *Marlin* and *Fack-Marlin*.

The *Hoby* and *Fack*.

There is the *Stelletto* of *Spain*.

The *Blond red Rook* from *Turky*.

The *Waskite* from *Verginia*.

And there is of short winged
Hawks.

The *Eagle* and *Iron*.

The *Goshawk* and *Tarcel*.

The *Sparhawk* and *Musket*.

The *French Pye* of two sorts.

These

These are reckoned Hawks of note and worth, but we have also of an inferiour rank.

The *Stanyel*, the *Ringtail*.

The *Raven*, the *Buzzard*.

The forked *Kite*, the bald *Buzzard*

The *Hen-driver*, and others that I forbear to name.

Gentlemen, If I should enlarge my Discourse to the observation of the *Eires*, the *Brancher*, the *Ramish-Hawk*, the *Haggard*, and the two sorts of *Lentners*; and then treat of their several *Ayerles*, their *Mewings*, rare order of casting, and the renovation of their *Feathers*, their reclaiming, dyating, and then come to their rare stories of practice. I say, if I should enter into these, and many other observations that I could make, it would be much, very much pleasure to me: but lest I should break the rules of Civility with you, by taking up more then the proportion of time allotted to me, I will here break off, and intreat you *Mr. Venator*, to say what

what you are able in the commendation of Hunting, to which you are so much affected, and if time will serve, I will beg your favor for a further enlargement of some of those several heads. But no more at present.

Venat. Well Sir, and I will now take my turn, and will first begin with a commendation of the earth, as you have done most excellently of the Air, the Earth being that Element upon which I drive my pleasant wholesome hungry trade. The Earth is a solid, settled Element; an Element most universally beneficial both to man and beast; to men who have their several Recreations upon it, as Horse-Races, Hunting, sweet smells, pleasant walks. The Earth feeds man, and all those several beasts that both feed him and afford him Recreation: What pleasure doth man take in hunting the stately *Stag*, the generous *Buck*, the *Wild Boar*, the cunning *Otter*, the crafty *Fox*, and the

the fearful *Hare*. And if I may descend to a lower Game, what pleasure is it sometimes with Gins to betray the very Vermine of the earth? as namely the *Fichat*, the *Fulimart*, the *Feret*, the *Pole-cat*, the *Mould-warp*, and the like Creatures that live upon the face and within the bowels of the Earth? How doth the earth bring forth *herbs*, *Flowers* and *fruits* both for *physick* and the *pleasure* of mankind? and above all, to me at least, the fruitful Vine, of which when I drink moderately, it clears my brain, cheers my heart, and sharpens my wit. How could *Cleopatra* have feasted *Mark Antony* with eight Wild Boares roasted whole at one Supper, and other meat sutable, if the earth had not bin a bountiful mother? But to passe by the mighty Elephant, which the Earth breeds and nourisheth, and descend to the least of Creatures, how doth the earth afford us a doctrinal example in the little Pismire, who in the Summer provides

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vides and layes up her winter provision, and teaches man to do the like. The earth feeds and carries those horses that carrie us. If I would be prodigal of my time and your patience, what might not I say in commendations of the earth: that puts limits to the proud and raging Sea, and by that meanes preserves both man and beast that it destroyes them not; as we see it daily doth those that venture upon the sea, and are there shipwrackt, drowned, and left to feed Haddocks, when we that are so wise as to keep our selves on earth, walk, and talk, and live, and eat, and drink, and go a Hunting: of which recreation I will say a little, and then leave Mr. *Piscator* to the commendation of Angling.

Hunting is a Game for Princes and noble persons; it hath been highly prized in all ages, it was one of the qualifications that *Xenophon* bestowed on his *Cyrus*, that he was a Hunter of Wild Beasts. Hunting trains
up

up the younger Nobility to the use of manly exercises in their riper age. What more manly exercise then hunting the Wild-Boare, the Stag, the Buck, the Fox or the Hare? How doth it preserve health, and increase strength and activity;

And for the dogs we use, who can commend their excellency to the height that they deserve? How perfect is the Hound at *smelling*, who never loses nor forsake his sent, but follows it thorow so many changes and varieties of other sent, even over and in the water, and into the earth? What musick doth a pack of Dogs then make to any man whose heart and ears are so happy as to be set to the tune of such Instruments? How will a right *Greyhound* fix his eye on the best *Buck* in a *herd*, single him out and follow him, and him only through a whole herd of Rascal game, and still know and kill him? for my Hounds, I know the language of them, and they know the
the

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the language and meaning of one another as perfectly as wee know the voices of those with whom wee discourse daily.

I might enlarge my self in the commending of Hunting, and of the noble hound especially, as also of the dociblenesse of dogs in general; and I might make many observations of land Creatures that for composition, order, figure and constitution, approach neereſt to the completeneſſe and understanding of man; eſpecially of thoſe creatures, which *Moses* in the Law permitted to the Jewes, which have cloven hoofs, and chew the Cud, which I ſhall forbear to name, becauſe I will not be ſo uncivil with Mr. *Piſcator* as not to allow him a time for the commendation of *Angling*, which he calls an Art, but doubtleſſe 'tis an eaſie one: and Mr. *Auceps*, I doubt we ſhall hear a watry diſcourſe of it, but I hope 'twill not be a long one.

Auc. And I hope ſo too, though
I fear

I 'fear it will.

Pisc. Gentlemen, let not prejudice preposseffe you. I confesse my discourse is like to prove sutable to my Recreation, *calm* and *quiet*; we seldom make the Welkin to roar, we seldom take the name of God into our mouthes, but it is either to praise or pray to him; if others use it vainly in the midst of their recreations, so vainly as if they meant to conjure, I must tell you it is neither our fault nor our custom; we, we protest against it. But pray remember, I accuse no body; for as I would not make a watty discourse, so I would not put too much vinegar into it, nor would I raise the reputation of my own Art by the diminution or ruine of anothers. And so much for the Prologue to what I mean to say.

And first for the *Water*, the Element that I trade in. The *Water* is the eldest daughter of the Creation, the Element upon which the Spirit of God did first move, the Element
C which

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which God commanded to bring forth living Creatures abundantly; and without which those that inhabit the Land, all Creatures that have breath in their nostrils must suddenly return to putrification. *Moses* the great Law-giver, and chiefe Philosopher, skilled in all the learning of the Egyptians, who was called the friend of God, and knew the mind of the Almighty, names this the first in the Creation, the Element upon which the Spirit of God did first move, makes Water the chief Ingredient in the first Creation. Many Philosophers have made it to comprehend all the other Elements, but most allow it the chiefeest in the mixtion of all living Creatures.

There be that professe to believe that all bodies are made of *water*, and may be reduced back againe to water only; they endeavor to demonstrate it thus:

Take a *Willow*, (or any like speedy growing

growing plant) newly rooted in a box or barrel full of earth, weigh them all together exactly when the tree begins to grow, and then weigh all together after the tree is increased from its first rooting to weigh an hundred pound weight more then when it was first weighed; and you shall find this augment of the tree to be without the diminution of one dram of the earth. Hence they infer this increase of wood to be from water of rain, or from dew, and not to be from any other Element. And they affirm, they can reduce this wood back again to water; and they affirm also the same may be done in any *Animal* or *Vegetable*. And this I take to be a faire Testimony of the excellency of my Element of water.

The *Water* is more productive then the *Earth*. Nay the *Earth* hath no fruitfulness without showers or dewes: all the *herbs*, and *flowers*, and *fruit* are produced and thrive by the

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water. Nay the very minerals are fed by streams that run under ground, whole natural course carries them to the tops of many high mountains, as we see by several springs breaking forth on the tops of the highest hills, and is witnessed by the daily tryal and testimony of several Miners.

Nay the increase of those Creatures that are bred and fed in the water, are not only more, and more miraculous, but more advantagious to man, not only for the lengthning of his life, but for the preventing of sickness; for 'tis observed by the most learned Physicians, that the casting off of Lent and other fish-dayes, (which hath not only given the lye to so many learned, pious, wise founders of Colledges, for which wee should be ashamed) hath doubtless been the chief cause of those many putride, shaking, intermitting Agues unto which this Nation of ours is now more subject then those wiser Coun-

Countries that feed on Herbs, Sallets and plenty of fish; of which it is observed in Story, that the greatest part of the world now do. And it may be fit to remember, that * *Moses* (*Lev. 11. 9. Dent. 14. 9.*) appointed fish to be the chief diet for the best Common-wealth that ever yet was.

And it is observable not only that there are *fish*, (as namely the *Whale*) three times as big as the mighty Elephant, that is so fierce in Battel; but that the mightiest Feasts have been of fish. The *Romans* in the height of their glory have made fish the Mistressse of all their Entertainments; they have had musick to usher in their *Sturgeon*, *Lampreyes* and *Mullet*, which they would purchase at rates rather to be wondred at, then believ'd. He that shall view the Writings of *Macrobius* or *Varro*, may be confirmed and informed of the incredible value of their fish and fish-ponds.

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But Gentlemen, I have almost lost my self, which I confesse I may easily do in this Philosophical Discourse; I met with most of it very lately (and I hope happily) in a conference with a most learned Physician, a dear friend, that loves both me and my Art of Angling. But however I will wade no deeper into these mysterious Arguments, but passe to such Observations as I can manage with more pleasure, and lesse fear of running into Errors. But I must not yet forsake the Waters, by whose help we have so many knowne advantages.

And first, (to passe by the miraculous cures of our known *Baths*) how advantagious is the *Sea* for our daily Traffick, without which wee could not now subsist. How does it not only furnish us with Food and Physick for the bodies, but with such observations for the mind as ingenuous persons would not want.

How ignorant had we been of the
beauty

beauty of *Florence*, of the *Monuments*, *Urns* and *Rarities* that yet remain in and neer unto old and new *Rome*, so many as it is said will take up a years time to view, and afford to each but a convenient consideration; and therefore it is not to be wondred at, that so learned and devout a Father as *Saint Jerom*, after his wish to have seen Christ in the flesh, and to have heard *Saint Paul* preach, makes his third wish to have seen *Rome* in her glory; and yet all that beauty is not lost; for what pleasure is it to see the *Monuments* of *Livie*; the choicest of *Historians*: Of *Tully*, the best of *Orators*, and to see the Bay-trees that now grow out of the Tomb of *Virgile*: These, to any that love learning. But what pleasure is it to a *Christian* to see there the humble house in which *Saint Paul* was content to live, dwell, and to view the many rich statues that are there made in honour of his memory: nay, to see the very place in which *Saint Pe-*

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ter and he lye buried. These in and neer to *Rome*. But how much more doth it please the pious curiosity of a Christian to see that place on which the blessed Saviour of the world was pleased to humble himselfe, and to take our nature upon him, and to converse with men; to see Mount *Sion*, *Ferusalem*, and the very Sepulcher of our Jesus? How may it beget and heighten the zeal of a Christian to see the Devotions that are daily paid to him at that place? Gentlemen, lest I forget my self, I will stop here, and but remember you, that, but for the water, the Inhabitants of this poor Iland must remaine ignorant that such things yet are.

Gentlemen, I might both inlarge and lose my self in such like Arguments; I might tell you that Almighty God is said to have spoken to a *Fish*, but never to a *Beast*; that hee hath made a *Whale* a Ship to carry and set his Prophet *Fonah* safe on
an

an appointed shore. But I must in manners break off, for I see *Thebalds* house. I cry you mercy for being so long, and thank you for your patience.

Anceps. Sir, My pardon is easily granted you: I except against nothing that you have said, nevertheless I must part with you at this Park wall, for which I am very sorry; but I assure you I now part with you full of good thoughts, not only of your self, but your Recreation. And so Gentlemen, God keep you both.

Pisc. Well, now Mr. *Venator* you shall neither want time nor my attention to hear you inlarge your Discourse concerning *Hunting*.

Venat. Not I Sir, I remember you said that Angling it selfe was of great Antiquity, and a perfect Art, and an Art not easily attained to; and you have so won upon mee in your former discourse, that I am very desirous to hear what you can say,

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say further concerning those particulars.

Pisc. Sir, I did say so, and I doubt not but if you and I did converse together but a few houres, to leave you possesst with the same high and happy thoughts that now possess me of it; not only of the Antiquity of *Angling*, but that it deserves commendations, and that it is an Art, and an Art worthy the knowledge and practice of a wise man.

Venat. Pray Sir speak of them what you think fit, for we have yet five miles to the Thatcht House, during which walk I dare promise you my patience and diligent attention shall not be wanting. And if you shall make that to appear which you have undertaken, that it is an Art, and an Art worth the learning, I shall beg that I may attend you a day a fishing, and that I may become your Scholer, and be instructed in the Art it selfe which you so much magnifie.

Piscat. O Sir, doubt not but that

Ang.

Angling is an Art, and an Art worth your learning: the Question is rather whether you be capable of learning it: for *Angling* is somewhat like Poetry, men are to be born so: I mean with inclinations to it; though both may be heightned by practice and experience; but he that hopes to be a good *Angler* must not onely bring an inquiring, searching, observing wit, but he must bring a large measure of hope and patience, and a love and propensity to the Art it self; but having once got and practis'd it, then doubt not but *Angling* will prove to be so pleasant, that it will prove like Vertue, a reward to it selfe.

Venat. Sir, I am now become so full of expectation, that I long much to have you proceed, and in the order that you propose.

Pisc. Then first, for the antiquity of *Angling*, of which I shall not say much, but only this; Some say it is as ancient as *Deucalions* Flood: others

others, that *Belus*, who was the first inventor of Godly and vertuous recreations, was the first Inventer of *Angling*: and some others say (for former times have had their disquisitions about the Antiquity of it) that *Seth*, one of the sons of *Adam*, taught it to his sons, and that by them it was derived to posterity: others say, that he left it ingraven on those pillars which he erected, and trusted to preserve the knowledg of the *Mathematicks*, *Musick*, and the rest of that precious knowledge, and those useful Arts, which by Gods appointment or allowance and his noble industry were thereby preserved from perishing in *Noahs* flood.

These Sir, have been the opinions of several men, that have possibly endeavoured to make *angling* more ancient then is needful, or may well be warranted; but for my part, I shal content my selfe in telling you that *Angling* is much more ancient then the Incarnation of our Saviour; for

in the Prophet *Amos* mention is made of *fish-hooks*; and in the Book of *Job* (which was long before the days of *Amos*, for that book is said to be writ by *Moses*) mention is made also of fish-hooks, which must imply Anglers in those times.

But my worthy friend, as I would rather prove my self a *Gentleman* by being *learned*, and *humble*, *valiant*, and *inoffensive*, *vertuous* and *communicable*, then by any fond ostentation of riches, or wanting these vertues my selfe, boast that these were in my Ancestors (and yet I grant that where a noble and ancient descent and such merits meet in any man, it is a double dignification of that person:) So if this Antiquity of *angling*, which for my part I have not forced, shall like an ancient family, be either an honour or an ornament to this vertuous Art which I professe to love and practise, I shall be the gladder that I made an accidental mention of it. And so I pass from the Antiquity
of

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of Angling to the commendations of it.

And for that I shall tell you, that in ancient times a debate hath risen, (and it remains yet unresolved) Whether the happinesse of man in this world doth consist more in *Contemplation* or *action*.

Concerning which some have endeavoured to maintain their opinion of the first, by saying, *That the nearer we Mortals come to God by way of imitation, the more happy we are.* And they say, *That God enjoys himself only by a contemplation of his owne infinitenesse, Eternity, Power and Goodnesse, and the like.* And upon this ground many Cloysteral men of great learning and devotion prefer *Contemplation* before *action*. And many of the Fathers seem to approve this opinion, as may appear in their *Commentaries* upon the words of our Saviour to *Martha*, *Luke 10. 41, 42.*

And on the contrary, there want
not

not men of equal Authority and credit that prefer *action* to be the more excellent, as namely *experiments in Physick*, and the application of it, both for the ease and prolongation of mans life; by which each man is enabled to act and do good to others; either to serve his Country, or do good to particular persons; and they say also, *That action is Doctrinal, and teaches both art and vertue, and is a maintainer of humane society*, and for these and other like reasons to be preferred before *contemplation*.

Concerning which two opinions I shall forbear to adde a third, by declaring my own, and rest my selfe contented in telling you, my very worthy friend, that both these meet together, and do most properly belong to the most *honest, ingenious, quiet and harmelesse Art of angling*.

And first, I shall tell you what some have observed, and I have found to be a real truth, that the very
sitting

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sitting by the rivers side, is not only the quietest and fittest place for *Contemplation*, but will invite an Angler to it. And this seems to be maintained by the Learned *Pet. du Moline*, who (in his Discourse of the fulfilling of Prophecies) observes, that when God intended to reveal any further events or higher notions to his Prophets, he then carried them either to the *Deserts* or the *Sea shore*, that having so separated them from amidst the presse of *people*, and *business*, and the cares of the world, he might settle their minds in a quiet repose, and make them fit for revelation.

And this seems also to be intimated by the children of *Israel* (*Psal.* 137.) who having in a sad condition banished all mirth and musick from their pensive hearts, and having hung up their then mute Harps upon the Willow trees growing by the Rivers of *Babylon*, sate down upon those banks bemoaning the ruins of *Sion*, and con-
templa-

emplating their owne sad condition.

And an ingenuous *Spaniard* says,
*That Rivers, and the inhabitants of the
watry Element were made for wise men
to contemplate, and fooles to passe by
without consideration.* And though
I will not rank my selfe in the number
of the first, yet give me leave to free
my self from the last, by offering to
you a short contemplation first of *ri-
vers*, and then of *Fish*; concerning
which I doubt not but to give you
many observations that will appear
very considerable: I am sure they
have appeared so to me, and made
many an hour passe away more plea-
santly, as I have sate quietly on a
flowery bank by a calme river, and
contemplated what I shall now relate
to you.

And first concerning Rivers, there
be divers wonders reported of them
by Authors of such credit, that wee
need not deny them an Historical
faith.

As

As namely of a River in *Epirus* that puts out any lighted Torch, and kindles any torch that was not light-ed. Some Waters being drunk cause madnesse, some drunkennesse, and some laughter to death. The River *Selarus* in a few hours turnes a rod or wand to be stone; and our *Cambden* mentions the like in *England*, and the like in *Lochmere* in *Ireland*. There is also a river in *Arabia* of which all the sheep that drink thereof have their wooll turned into a Vermillion colour. And one of no lesse credit then *Aristotle* tells us of a merry River, the River *Elusina* that dances at the noise of Musick; for with Musick it bubbles, dances and growes sandy, and so continues til the Musick ceases, but then it presently returnes to its wonted calmnesse and clearnesse. And *Cambden* tells us of a Well neer to *Kerby* in *Westmoreland*, that ebbs and flowes several times every day; and he tells us of a River in *Surrey* (it is called *Mole*) that after it has
run

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run several Miles, being opposed by hills, finds or makes it self a way to run under ground, and breaks out again so farre off, that the Inhabitants thereabout boast (as the *Spainiards* do of their River *Anus*) that they feed divers flocks of sheep upon a Bridg. And lastly, for I would not tire your patience, one of no lesse authority then *Iosephus* that learned Jew, tells us of a River in *Judea*, that runs swiftly all the six dayes of the week, and stands still and rests all their *Sabbath*.

But Sir, lest this Discourse may seem tedious, I shall give it a sweet conclusion out of that holy Poet Mr. *George Herbert*, his Divine Contemplation on Gods Providence.

*Lord, who hath praise enough, nay, who hath any?
None can expresse thy works, but he that knows them;
And none can know thy works, they are so many,
And so complete, but only he that owes them.*

*We all acknowledg both thy power and love
To be exact, transcendent, and divine;*

Who

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*Who doſt ſo ſtrangely, and ſo ſweetly move,
Whilst all things have their end, yet none but thine.*

*Wherefore, moſt ſacred Spirit, I here preſent
For me, and all my fellowes, praiſe to thee ;
And juſt it is that I ſhould pay the rent,
Be cauſe the benefit accrues to me.*

And as concerning Fiſh, in that
Pſalm, (*Pſal.* 104.) wherein for
height of Poetry and Wonders, the
Prophet *David* ſeems even to exceed
himſelf; how doth hee there ex-
preſſe himſelf in choice Metaphors,
even to the amazement of a con-
templative Reader, concerning the
Sea, the *Rivers*, and the *Fiſh* therein
contained? And the great *Natural-
liſt Pliny* ſayes, *That Natures great
and wonderful power is more de-
monſtrated in the Sea, then on the
Land.* And this may appeare by
the numerous and various Crea-
tures, inhabiting both in and about
that Element: as to the Readers of
Gefner, *Randelitius*, *Pliny*, *Auſo-
nius*, *Ariſtole*, and others may be de-
monſtrated. But I wil ſweeten this diſ-
courſe

course also out of a contemplation in Divine *Dubartas*, who sayes, *Dubartas* in the fifth day.

God quickned in the Sea and in the Rivers,
 So many fishes of so many features,
 That in the waters we may see all Creatures;
 Even all that on the earth is to be found,
 As if the world were in deep waters drown'd.
 For Seas (as well as Skies) have Sun, Moon, Stars;
 (As well as Air) Swallows, Rooks and Stares;
 (As well as Earth) Vines, Roses, Nettles, Melons,
 Mushrooms, Pinks, Gilliflowers, and many millions
 Of other plants, more rare, more strange then these,
 As very fishes living in the Seas:
 As also Rams, Calves, Horses, Hares and Hogs,
 Wolves, Urchins, Lions, Elephants and Dogs;
 Yea, Men and Maids, and which I most admire,
 The Mitred Bishop, and the cowled Fryer.
 Of which, examples but a few years since,
 Were shewn the Norway and Polonian Prince.

These seem to be wonders, but have had so many confirmations from men of Learning and Credit, that you need not doubt them; nor are the number, nor the various shapes of fishes, more strange or more fit for contemplation, then their different natures, inclinations and actions:

ctions; concerning which I shal beg your patient ear a little longer.

The *Cuttle-fish* will cast a long gut out of her throat, which (like as an Angler doth his line) shee sendeth forth and pulleth in againe at her pleasure, according as she sees some little fish come neer to her; and the

Mount. Es-
sayes: and the *Cuttle-fish* (being then hid in the gravel) lets the smaller fish nibble and bite the end of it; at which time shee

by little and little drawes the smaller fish so neer to her, that shee may leap upon her, and then catches and devours her: and for this reason some have called this fish the *Sea-Angler*.

There are also lustful and chaste fishes, of which I shall also give you examples.

And first, what *Dubartas* sayes of a fish called the *Sargus*; which (because none can expresse it better then he does) I shall give you in his owne words, supposing it shall not have

have the lesse credit for being Verse,
for he hath gathered this, and other
observations out of Authors that
have been great and industrious scar-
chers into the secrets of Nature.

*The Adultrous Sargus doth not only change
Wives every day in the deep streames; but (strange)
As if the honey of Sea-love delight
Could not suffice his rangeing appetite,
Goes courting She-Goats on the grassie shore,
Horning their husbands that had horns before.*

And the same Author writes con-
cerning the *Cantharus*, that which
you shall also heare in his owne
words.

*But contrary, the constant Cantharus,
Is ever constant to his faithfull Spouse,
In nuptial duties spending his chaste life,
Never loves any but his own dear wife.*

Sir, but a little longer, and I have
done.

Venat. Sir, take what liberty you
think fit, for your discourse seems to
be Musick, and charms me into an at-
tention.

Pisc.

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Pisc. Why then Sir, I will take a little liberty to tell, or rather to remember you what is said of *Turtle-Doves*: First, That they silently plight their troth and marry; and that then, the Survivor scornes (as the *Thracian women* are said to do) to out-live his or her mate; and this is taken for such a truth, that if the Survivor shall ever couple with another, the he or she, not only the living, but the dead, is denyed the *name* and *honour* of a true *Turtle Dove*.

And to parallel this Land Rarity and teach mankind moral faithfulness, and to condemne those that talk of Religion, and yet come short of the moral faith of fish and fowle; Men that violate the Law, affirmed by Saint *Paul* (*Rom. 2. 14, 15.*) to be writ in their hearts, and which he sayes, shall at the last day condemne and leave them without excuse. I

pray hearken to what *Dubartas* sings, (for the hearing of such conjugal faithfulness, will be

Dubartas
fifth day.

be Musick to all chaste ears) and therefore I pray hearken to what *Dubart* as sings of the *Mullet*.

*But for chaste love the Mullet hath no peer ;
For, if the Fisher hath surpriz'd her pheer,
As mad with wo, to shore she followeth,
Prest to consort him both in life and death.*

On the contrary, what shall I say of the *House-Cock*, which treads any Hen, and then (contrary to the *Swan*, the *Partridg* and *Pigeon*) takes no care to hatch, to feed or to cherish his own brood, but is senseless though they perish.

And 'tis considerable, that the *Hen* (which because she also takes any *Cock*, expects it not) who is sure the Chickens be her own, hath by a moral impression her care and affection to her own Broode more then doubled, even to such a height, that our Saviour in expressing his love to *Jerusalem* (*Mat. 23. 37*) quotes her for an example of tender affection, as his Father had done *Job* for a pattern of patience.

D

And

And to parallel this *Cock*, there be divers fishes that cast their spawn on flags or stones, and then leave it uncovered, and exposed to become a prey, and be devoured by Vermine or other fishes : but other fishes (as namely the *Barbel*) take such care for the preservation of their seed, that (unlike to the *Cock* or the *Cuckoe*) they mutually labour (both the Spawner and the Melter) to cover their Spawne with sand, or watch it, or hide it in some secret place unfrequented by Vermine, or by any fish but themselves.

Sir, these examples may, to you and others, seem strange ; but they are testified, some by *Aristotle*, some by *Pliny*, some by *Gesner*, and by divers others of credit, and are believed and known by divers, both of wisdom and experience, to be a truth ; and are (as I said at the beginning) fit for the contemplation of a most serious, and a most pious man.

And

And

And that they be fit for the contemplation of the most prudent and pious, and peaceable men, seems to be testified by the practice of so many devout and contemplative men; as the Patriarks and Prophets of old, and of the Apostles of our Saviour in these latter times, of which twelve he chose foure that were Fishermen: concerning which choice some have made these Observations.

First, That he never reprov'd these for their Employment or Calling, as he did the Scribes and the Money-Changers. And secondly, That he found the hearts of such men, men that by nature were fitted for contemplation and quietnesse; men of mild, and sweet, and peaceable spirits (as indeed most Anglers are;) these men our blessed Saviour who is observed to love to plant grace in good natures) though nothing be too hard for him; yet these men he chose to call from their irre-

D 2

provable

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provable Employment of fishing, and gave them grace to be his Disciples, and to follow him.

And it is observable, that it was our Saviours will that his four Fishermen Apostles should have a priority of nomination in the catalogue of his twelve Apostles (*Matth. 10.*) as namely first, *S. Peter, Andrew, James,* and *John*, and then the rest in their order.

And it is yet more observable, that when our blessed Saviour went up into the Mount, when he left the rest of his Disciples and chose only three to beare him company at his Transfiguration, that those three were all Fishermen. And it is believed, that all the other Apostles after they betook themselves to follow Christ, betook themselves to be Fisher-men; but it is certain that the greater number of them were found together a fishing by Jesus after his Resurrection, as is recorded in the 21. Chapter of *S. Johns Gospel.*

And

And since I have your promise to hear me with patience, I will take a liberty to look back upon an observation that hath been made by an ingenuous and learned man, who observes that God hath been pleased to allow those whom he himself hath appointed, to write his holy will in holy Writ, yet to expresse his will in such Metaphors as their former affections or practise had inclined them to; and he brings *Solomon* for an example, who before his conversion was remarkably carnally amorous; and after by Gods appointment, writ that spiritual, holy, amorous Love-Song (the *Canticles*) betwixt God and his Church.

And if this hold in reason (as I see none to the contrary) then it may be probably concluded, that *Moses* (whom I told you before, writ the book of *Job*) and the Prophet *Amos*, who was a shepherd, were both Anglers too, for you shall in all the Old Testament, find fish-hooks, I think

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but twice mentioned; namely, by meek *Moses*, the friend of God, and by the humble Prophet *Amos*.

Concerning which last, namely, the Prophet *Amos*, I shall make but this Observation, That he that shall read the *humble, lowly, plain stile* of that Prophet, and compare it with the *high, glorious, eloquent stile* of the Prophet *Isaiah* (though they be both equally true) may easily believe him to be, not only a Shepherd, but a good natured, plain *Fisher-man*.

Which I do the rather believe, by comparing the affectionate, loving, lowly, humble Epistles of *S. Peter*, *S. James* and *S. John*, whom we know were all Fishers, with the glorious Language and high Metaphors of *Saint Paul*, whom we believe was not.

And for the lawfulness of fishing, it may very well be maintained by our Saviours bidding *Saint Peter* cast his hook into the water and catch a fish

fish, for money to pay Tribute to Caesar. And let me tell you, that angling is of high esteem, and of much use in other Nations. He that reads the Voyages of *Ferdinand Mendez Pinto*, shall find that there he declares to have found a King and several Priests a fishing.

And he that reads *Plutark*, shall find that Angling was not contemptible in the dayes of *Mark Antony* and *Cleopatra*, and that they in the midst of their wonderful glory, used Angling as a principal recreation. And let me tell you, that in the Scripture, Angling is alwayes taken in the best sense, and that, though hunting may be sometimes so taken, yet it is but seldome to be so understood. And let me adde this more, he that views the ancient Ecclesiastical Canons, shall find *Hunting* to be forbidden to Church-men, as being a toilsom, perplexing Recreation, and shall find *angling* allowed to *Clergy-men*, as being a harmlesse Recreation, that

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invites them to *contemplation* and *quietness*.

I might here enlarge my self by telling you what commendations our learned *Perkins* bestowes on angling: and how dear a lover, and great a practicer of it our learned Doctor *Whitaker* was, as many others of great note have been. But I will content my self with two memorable men, that lived neer to our own time, whom I also take to have been ornaments to the Art of Angling.

The first is Doctor *Newel* sometimes Dean of the Cathedral Church of Saint *Paul* in *London* (where his Monument stands yet undefaced) a man that in the Reformation of Queen *Elizabeth* (not that of *Henry the VIII.*) was so noted for his meek spirit, deep learning, prudence and piety, that the then Parliament and Convocation both, chose, injoynd and trusted him to be the man to make a Catechism for publick use, such a one as should stand as a rule
for

for faith and manners to their posterity. And the good old man (though he was very learned, yet knowing that God leads us not to heaven by hard questions) like an honest Angler, made that *good, plain, unperplexed* Catechism which is printed with our old Service Book. I say, this good man was as dear a lover, and constant practicer of Angling, as any Age can produce; and his custome was to spend (besides his fixt hours of prayer, those houres which by command of the Church were enjoined the old Clergy, and voluntarily dedicated to devotion by many Primitive Christians :) besides those hours, this good man was observed to spend a tenth part of his time in Angling; and also (for I have conversed with those which have conversed with him) to bestow a tenth part of his Revenue, and all his *fish*, amongst the poor that inhabited near to those Rivers in which it was caught, saying often, *That charity gave life to*

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Religion : and at his returne to his house would praise God he had spent that day free from worldly trouble, both harmlesly, and in a Recreation that became a Church-man. And this good man was well content, if not desirous, that posterity should know he was an *angler*, as may appear by his Picture, now to be seen and carefully kept in *Brasenose Colledg*, (to which he was a liberal Benefactor) in which Picture he is drawne leaning on a Desk with his Bible before him, and on one hand of him his *lines, books*, and other *tackling* lying in a round; and on his other hand is his *Angle-rods* of several sorts.

My next and last example shall be that undervaluer of money, the late Provost of *Eton Colledg*, Sir *Henry Wotton*, (a man with whom I have often fish'd and convers'd) a man whose forraign Employments in the service of this *Nation*, and whose experience, learning, wit and soberfulnesse, made his company to be

bee

bee esteemed one of the delights of mankind; this man, whose very approbation of Angling were sufficient to convince any modest Censurer of it, this man was also a most dear lover, and a frequent practicer of the Art of Angling, of which he would say, *'Twas an Imployment for his idle time, which was not idly spent, for angling was after tedious Study, A rest to his mind, a cheerer of his spirits, a diversion of sadnesse, a calmer of unquiet thoughts, a Moderator of passions, a procurer of contentednesse; and, that it begot habits of peace and patience in those that profest and practic'd it.*

Sir, This was the saying of that Learned man; and I do easily believe that *peace, and patience, and a calme content* did cohabit in the cheerful heart of Sir Henry VVotton, because I know, that when hee was beyond seventy yeares of age, hee made this discription of a part of the present pleasure that posselt him, as
he

he sat quietly in a Summers evening on a bank a fishing; it is a description of the Spring, which, because it glides as soft and sweetly from his pen, as that River does now by which it was then made, I shall repeat unto you.

*This day dame Nature seem'd in love :
 The lusty sap began to move ;
 Fresh juice did stir th' embracing Vines,
 And birds had drawn their valentines.
 The jealous Trout, that low did lye,
 Rose at a well dissembled flie ;
 There stood my friend with patient skil,
 Attending of his trembling quill.
 Already were the eaves possess'd
 With the swift Pilgrims damb'd nest :
 The Groves already did rejoyce,
 In Philomels triumphing voice :
 The showrs were short, the weather mild,
 The morning fresh, the evening smil'd.
 Jone takes her neat rubb'd pail, & now
 She trips to milk the sand-red Cow ;
 Where, for some sturdy foot-ball Swain,
 Jone strokes a sillibub or twain.*

The

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*The fields and gardens were beset
With Tulips, Crocus, Violet,
And now, though late, the modest Rose
Did more then half a blush disclose.
Thus all looks gay, and full of cheer
To welcom the new livery'd year.*

These were the thoughts that then
possess the undisturbed mind of Sir
Henry Wotton. Will you hear the wish
of another Angler, and the commen-
dation of his happy life, which he also
sings in Verse: viz. *To. Da.*

*Let me live harmlesly, and near the brink
Of Trent or Avon have a dwelling place,
Where I may see my quill or cork down sink
With eager bit of Pearch, or Bleak, or Dace;
And on the world and my Creator think,
Whilst some men strive, ill gotten goods to imbrace;
And others spend their time in base excess
Of wine or worse, in war and wantonness.*

*Let them that list, these pastimes still pursue,
And on such pleasing fancies feed their fill,
So I the fields and meadowes green may view,
And daily by fresh Rivers walk at will,
Among the Daisies and the Violets blue,
Red Hyacinth, and yellow Daffadil,
Purple Narcissus like the morning rays,
Pale Gandergrass, and azure Culyerkayes.*

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I count it higher pleasure to behold
The stately compasse of the lofty Skie,
And in the midst thereof (like burning gold)
The flaming Chariot of the worlds great eye,
The watry clouds, that in the air up rold,
With sundry kinds of painted colours flye;
And fair Aurora lifting up her head,
Still blushing, rise from old Tithonius bed.

The hills and mountains raised from the plains,
The plains extended level with the ground,
The grounds divided into sundry vains,
The vains inclos'd with rivers running round;
These rivers making way through natures chains
With headlong course into the sea profound;
The raging sea, beneath the vallyes low,
Where lakes and rils, and rivulets do flow.

The lofty woods, the forrests wide and long
Adorn'd with leaves and branches fresh and green,
In whose cool bowres the birds with many a song
Do welcom with their Quire the Summers Queen:
The Meadoves fair where Flora's gifts among
Are intermixt with verdant grasse between.
The silver-scaled fish that softly swim,
Within the sweet brooks chrystal watry stream.

All these, and many more of his Creation,
That made the Heavens, the Angler oft doth see,
Taking therein no little delectation,
To think how strange, how wonderful they be;
Framing thereof an inward contemplation,
To set his heart from other fancies free;
And whilst he looks on these with joyful eye,
His mind is wrapt above the starry Skie.

Sir

Sir, I am glad my memory did not lose these last Verses, because they are somewhat more pleasant and more suitable to *May day*, than my harsh Discourse; and I am glad your patience hath held out so long, as to hear them and me; for both together have brought us within the sight of the *Thatcht House*; and I must be your Debtor (if you think it worth your attention) for the rest of my promised discourse, till some other opportunity, and a like time of leisure.

Venat. Sir, you have Angled mee on with much pleasure to the *thatcht House*; and I now find your words true, *That good company makes the way seem short*; for trust me, Sir, I thought we had wanted three miles of this *House* till you shewed it me: but now we are at it, we'll turn into it, and refresh our selves with a cup of drink and a little rest.

Pisc. Most gladly (Sir) and we'll drink a civil cup to all the *Otter Hunters*

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ters that are to meet you to morrow.

Ven. That we will Sir, and to all the lovers of Angling too, of which number, I am now one my selfe, for by the help of your good discourse and company, I have put on new thoughts both of the Art of Angling, and of all that professe it: and if you will but meet me to morrow at the time and place appointed, and bestow one day with me and my friends in hunting the Otter, I will the next two dayes wait upon you, and we two will for that time do nothing but angle, and talk of fish and fishing.

Pisc. 'Tis a match, Sir, I'll not fail you, God willing, to be at *Ammwell* hil to morrow morning before Sun-rising.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

Observations of the Otter and Chub.

Venat. **M**Y friend *Piscator*,
you have kept time
with my thoughts,
for the Sun is just rising, and I my
self just now come to this place, and
the dogs have just now put down an
Otter, look down at the bottome of
the hill, there in that Meadow, che-
quered with water Lillies, and Lady-
smocks, there you may see what
work they make; look, you see all
busie, men and dogs, dogs and men,
all busie.

Pisc. Sir, I am right glad to meet
you, and glad to have so fair an en-
trance into this dayes sport, and
glad to see so many dogs, and more
men all in pursuit of the *Otter*; lets
comple-

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complement no longer, but joine unto them; come honest *Venator*, lets be gone, lets make haste, I long to be doing; no reasonable hedge or ditch shall hold me.

Ven. Gentleman Huntsman, where found you this *Otter*?

Hunt. Marry (Sir) we found her a mile off this place a fishing; she has this morning eaten the greatest part of this *Trout*; she has only left thus much of it as you see, and was fishing for more; when we came we found her just at it; but we were here very early, we were here an hour before Sun-rise, and have given her no rest since we came: sure she'l hardly escape all these dogs and men. I am to have the skin if we kil him.

Venat. Why, Sir, whats the skin worth?

Hunt. 'Tis worth ten shillings to make gloves; the gloves of an *Otter* are the best fortification for your hands against wet weather that can be thought of.

Pisc.

Pis. I pray, honest Huntsman, let me ask you a pleasant question, Do you hunt a beast or a fish?

Hun. Sir, It is not in my power to resolve you, I leave it to be resolved by the Colledg of *Carthusians*, who have made vowes never to eat flesh. But I have heard, the question hath beene debated among many great Clerks, and they seem to differ about it; but most agree that his tail is fish: and if his body be fish too, then I may say, that a fish will walk upon land, (for an *Otter* does so) sometimes five or six, or ten miles in a night. But (Sir) I can tell you certainly, that he devours much fish, and kills and spoils much more then he eats: And I can tell you, that this Dog-fisher (for so the Latins call him) can smell a fish in the water a hundred yards from him (*Gesner* says, much farther) and that his stones are good against the Falling-sickness: and that there is an herb *Benione*, which being hung in a linnen cloth near a Fish pond, or
any

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any haunt that he uses, makes him to avoid the place; which proves he can smell both by water and land. And I can tell you there is brave hunting this Water-dog in *Cornwal*, where there have been so many, that our *Cambden* sayes, there is a River called *Ottersey* which was so named, by reason of the abundance of *Otters* that bred and fed in it.

And thus much for my knowledg of the *Otter*, which you may now see above water at vent, and the dogs close with him; I now see he will not last long, follow therefore my Masters, follow, for *Sweetlips* was like to have him at his vent.

Ven. Oh me, all the Horse are got over the River, what shal we do now? shall we follow them over the water?

Hunt. No. Sir, no, be not so eager, stay a little and follow me, for both they and the dogs will be suddenly on this side again, I warrant you and the *Otter* too, it may bee: now have

have at him with *Kilbuck*; for hee vents again.

Ven. Marry so he is, for look he vents in that corner. Now, now *Ringwood* has him. Come bring him to me. Look, 'Tis a Bitch *Otter*, and she has lately whelp'd, lets go to the place where she was *put down*, and not far from it, you will find all her young ones, I dare warrant you, and kil them all too.

Hunt. Come Gentlemen, come all, lets go to the place where we *put down* the *Otter*. Look you, hereabout it was that she kenell'd, look you, here it was indeed, for here's her young ones, no less then five; come lets kill them all.

Pisc. No, I pray Sir, save me one, and I'll try if I can make her tame, as I know an ingenuous Gentleman in *Leicester-shire* (*Mr. Nich. Seagrave*) has done; who hath not only made her tame, but to catch fish, and do many things of much pleasure.

Hunt. Take one with all my heart;
but

but let us kill the rest. And now lets go to an honest Alehouse, where we may have a cup of good barley wine, and sing *Old Rose*, and all of us rejoyce together.

Venat. Come my friend, let me invite you along with us; I'll beare your charges this night, and you shall beare mine to morrow; for my intention is to accompany you a day or two in fishing.

Pisc. Sir, your request is granted, and I shall be right glad, both to exchange such a courtesie, and also to enjoy your company.

Venat. Well, now lets go to your sport of Angling.

Pisc. Lets be going with all my heart. God keep you all, Gentlemen, and send you meet this day with another bitch Otter, and kill her merrily, and all her young ones too.

Ven. Now *Piscator*, where will you begin to fish?

Pisc.

Pisc. We are not yet come to a likely place, I must walk a mile further yet before I begin.

ven. Well then, I pray as we walk, tell me freely how do you like my Hoste and the comyany? is not mine Hoste a witty-man?

Pisc. Sir, I will tell you presently what I think of your Hoste. But first I will tell you, I am glad these *Otters* were killed, and am sorry there are no more *Otter-killers*: for I may tell you, that the want of *Otter-killers*, and the not keeping the *Fence Months* for the preservation of *fish*, will in time prove the destruction of all *Rivers*; and those very few that are left that make conscience of the Lawes of the Nation, and of keeping dayes of abstinence will be forced to eat flesh, or suffer more inconveniences then is yet foreseen.

venat. Why Sir, what be those that you call the *Fence months*?

Pisc. Sir, They bee principally three, namely, *March*, *April*, and *May*,

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May, these being the usual Months that *Salmon* come out of the sea to spawn in most fresh rivers, and their fry would about a certain time return back to the salt water, if they were not hindred by *weres* and *unlawful Gins* which the greedy fisher-men set, and so destroy them by thousands, as they would (being so taught by nature) change the *fresh* for *salt water*. He that shall view the wise statutes made in the 13 of *Edw. the I.* and the like in *Rich. the III.* may see several provisions made against the destruction of fish: and though I profess no knowledg of the Law; yet I am sure the regulation of these defects might be easily mended. But I remember that a wise friend of mine did usually say, *That which is every bodies businesse, is no bodies businesse*. If it were otherwise, there could not be so many nets and fish that are under the statute size sold daily amongst us, and of which the *Conservators* of the waters should be ashamed.

But

But above all, the taking fish in Spawning time, may be said to be against Nature; it is like the taking the dam on the nest when she hatches her young: a sin so against Nature, that Almighty God hath made a Law against it.

But the poor fish have enemies enough beside such unnatural *Fishermen*, as namely, the *Otters* that I spake of, the *Cormorant*, the *Bitterne*, the *Osprey*, the *Seagull*, the *Herne*, the *King-fisher*, the *Gorrara*, the *Puet*, the *Swan*, *Goose*, *Ducks*, and the *Craber*, which some call the *Water-Rat*: against all which any honest man may make a just quarrel, but I will not, I will leave them to be quarrelled with, and kild by others, for I am not of a cruel naturer; I love to kill nothing but fish.

And now to your question concerning your Hoste, to speak truly, he is not to me a good companion: for most of his conceits were either Scripture jests, or lascivious jests,
E for

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for which I count no man witty ; for the Diuel will help a man that way inclined to the first, and his own corrupt nature (which he alwaies carries with him) to the latter. But a companion that feasts the company with *wit* and *mirth*, and leaves out the *sin* (which is usually mixt with them) he is the man ; and indeed, such a companion should have his charges born : and to such company I hope to bring you this night ; for at *Trout-Hall*, not far from this place, where I purpose to lodg to night, there is usually an Angler that proves good company.

But for such Discourse as we heard last night, it infects others , the very boyes will learn to talk and swear as they heard mine Host, and another of the company that shall be nameless ; well, you know what example is able to do, and I know what the Poet sayes in the like case, which is worthy to be noted by all parents and people of civility.

Many

————— Many a one
Owes to his country his Religion:
And in another world as strongly grow,
Had but his nurse or mother taught him so.

This is reason put into Verse, and worthy the consideration of a wise man. But of this no more, for though I love civility, yet I hate severe censures: I'll to my own Art, and I doubt not but at yonder tree I shall catch a *Chub*, and then we'll turn to an honest cleanly Hostis, that I know right well, rest our selves there, and dress it for our dinner.

ven. Oh Sir, a *Chub* is the worst fish that swims, I hoped for a *Trout* for my dinner.

Pis. Trust me, Sir, there is not a likely place for a *Trout* hercabout, and we staid so long to take our leave of your Huntsmen this morning, that the Sun is got so high, and shines so clear, that I will not undertake the catching of a *Trout* till evening; and though a *Chub* be by you and many

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others reckoned the worst of *fish*, yet you shall see I'll make it a good fish by dressing it.

Venat. Why, how will you dress him?

Pis. Ile tel you when I have caught him. Look you here Sir, do you see? (but you must stand very close) there lye upon the top of the water in this very hole twenty *Chubs*, Ile catch onely one, and that shall be the biggest of them all: and that I will do so Ile hold you twenty to one.

Venat. I marry Sir, now you talk like an Artist, and Ile say you are one, when I shall see you perform what you say you can do; but I yet doubt it.

Pisc. You shall not doubt me long, for you shall see me do it presently: look, the biggest of these *Chubs* has had some bruise upon his taile, by a Pike or some other accident, and that looks like a white spot; that very *Chub* I mean to catch; sit you but downe in the shade, and stay but a little

tle while, and Ile warrant you Ile bring him to you.

Venat. Ile sit down and hope well, because you seeme to be so confident.

Pisc. Look you Sir, there is a tryal of skill, there he is, that very *Chub* that I shewed you with the white spot on his tail, and Ile be as certain to make him a good dish of meat, as I was to catch him. Ile now lead you to an honest Alehouse where we shall find a cleanly room, *Lavender* in the windows, and twenty *Ballads* stuck about the wall; there my Hostis (which I may tell you, is both cleanly and handsome, and civil) hath drest many a one for me, and shall now dresse it after my fashion, and I warrant it good meat.

Ven. Come Sir, with all my heart, for I begin to be hungry, and long to be at it, and indeed to rest my self too; for though I have walk'd but four miles this morning, yet I be-

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gin to be weary ; yester dayes hunting hangs stil upon me.

Pisc. Wel Sir, and you shall quickly be at rest, for yonder is the house I mean to bring you to.

Come Hostis, how do you ? Will you first give us a cup of your best Ale, and then dresse this *Chub*, as you drest my last, when I and my friend were here about eight or ten dayes ago ? but you must do me one courtesie, it must be done instantly.

Host. I will do it, Mr. *Piscator*, and with all the speed I can.

Pisc. Now Sir, has not my Hostis made haste ? and does not the fish look lovely ?

ven. Both, upon my word, Sir, and therefore lets say Grace and fall to eating of it.

Pisc. Wel Sir, how do you like it ?

ven. Trust me, 'tis as good meat as I ever tasted : now let me thank you for it, drink to you, and beg a courtesie of you ; but it must not be deny'd me.

Pisc.

Pisc. What is it I pray Sir? you are so modest, that me thinks I may promise to grant it before it is asked.

ven. Why Sir, it is that from henceforth you will allow me to call you Master, and that really I may be your Scholer, for you are such a companion, and have so quickly caught, and so excellently cook'd this fish, as makes me ambitious to be your scholer.

Pisc. Give me your hand; from this time forward I will be your Master, and teach you as much of this Art as I am able; and will, as you desire me, tell you somewhat of the nature of most of the fish that we are to Angle for, and I am sure I both can and will tell you more then any common *Angler* yet knowes.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

*How to fish for, and to dresse the
Chavender or Chub.*

Pisc. **T**He *Chub*, though he eat well thus drest, yet as he is usually drest, he does not: he is objected against, not only for being full of small forked bones, disperst through all his body, but that he eats watrish, and that the flesh of him is not firm but short and tasteless. The French esteem him so mean, as to cal him *Un villan*; nevertheless he may be so drest as to make him very good meat; as namely, if he be a large *Chub*, then drest him thus:

First scale him, and then wash him clean, and then take out his guts; and to that end, make the hole as little and near to his gills as you may conveniently, and especially make clean his throat
from

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from the grass and weeds that are usually in it (for if that be not very clean, it will make him to taste very sour:) having so done, put some sweet herbs into his belly, and then tye him with two or three splinters to a spit, and roast him, basted often with vinegar, or rather verjuice and butter, with good store of salt mixt with it.

Being thus drest, you will find him a much better dish of meat then you, or most folk, even then Anglers themselves do imagine, for this dries up the fluid watry humor with which all *Chubs* do abound.

But take this rule with you, That a *Chub* newly taken, and newly drest, is so much better then a *Chub* of a dayes keeping after he is dead, that I can compare him to nothing so fitly as to cherries newly gathered from a tree, and others that have been bruised and layne a day or two in water. Being thus used and drest presently, and not washt after he is gutted (for note: that lying long in water, and wash-

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ing the bloud out of the fish after they be gutted, abates much of their sweetnesse) you will find the Chub to be such meat as will recompence your labor.

Or you may dresse the *Chavender* or *Chub* thus :

When you have scaled him, and cut off his tail and fins, and washed him very clean, then chine or slit him through the middle, as a salt fish is usually cut, then give him three or four cuts or scotches with your knife, and broil him on char-cole or wood-cole that are free from smoak, and all the time he is a broiling baste him with the best sweet butter, and good store of salt mixt with it ; and to this add a little Time cut exceeding small, or bruised into the butter. The Cheven thus drest hath the watry taste taken away, for which so many except against him. Thus was the Cheven drest that you liked so well, and commended so much. But note again, that if this Chub that you are of had been kept till to morrow, he had

had not been worth a rush. And remember that his throat be very clean and his body not washt after hee is gutted.

Wel Scholer, you see what pains I have taken to recover the lost credit of the poor despised *Chub*. And now I will give you some rules how to catch him; and I am glad to enter you into the Art of fishing by catching a *Chub*; for there is no fish better to enter a young Angler, he is so easily caught, but then it must be this particular way :

Go to the same hole in which I caught my *Chub*, where, in most hot dayes you will find a dozen or twenty Chevens floting neer the top of the water, get two or three Grasshoppers as you go over the meadow, and get secretly behind the tree, and stand as free from motion as is possible, then put a Grasshopper on your hook, and let your hook hang a quatter of a yard short of the water; to which end you must rest your rod on some bough of
the

the tree, and it is likely the Chubs will sink down towards the bottom of the water at the shadow of your Rod, for a Chub is the fearfulest of fishes, and will do so if but a bird flies over him, and makes the least shadow on the water; but they will presently rise up to the top again, and there lye soaring till some shadow affrights them again: when they lye upon the top of the water, look out the best Chub, which you setting your self in a fit place, may very easily do, and move your Rod as softly as a Snail moves, to that Chub you intend to catch; let your bait fall gently upon the water three or four inches before him, and he will infallibly take the bait, and you will be as sure to catch him; for hee is one of the leather-mouth'd fishes, of which a hook does scarce ever lose his hold: and therefore give him play enough before you offer to take him out of the water. Go your way presently, take my rod, and do as I bid you,
and

and I wil sit down and mend my tack-
ling till you return back.

Ven. Truly, my loving Master, you
have offered me as faire as I could
wish. Ile go and observe your dire-
ctions.

Look you, Master, what I have
done, that which joies my heart;
caught just such another *Chub* as
yours was.

Pisc. Marrie, and I am glad of it:
I am like to have a towardly Scho-
ler of you. I now see, that with ad-
vice and practice you will make an
Angler in a short time.

Venat. But Master, What if I could
not have found a *Grashopper*?

Pisc. Then I may tell you, that a
black snail, with his belly slit, to
shew his white; or a piece of soft
cheese will usually do as well; nay,
sometimes a *worm*, or any kind of
fly, as the *Ant-fly*, the *Flesh-fly* or
Wall-flye, or the *Dor* or *Beetle*, (which
you may find under a Cow-turd) or
a *Bob*, which you will find in the same
place,

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place, and in time will be a Be etl
it is a short white worm, like to, and
bigger then a Gentle; or a *Cod-worm*,
or a *Cafe-worm*, any of these will do
very wel to fish in such a manner. And
after this manner you may catch a
Trout in a hot evening: when as you
walk by a Brook, and shall see or
hear him leap at flies, then if you
get a *Grashopper*, put it on your
hook, with your line about two yards
long, standing behind a bush or tree
where his hole is, and make your
bait stir up and downe on the top
of the water; you may, if you stand
close be sure of a bit, but not sure
to catch him, for he is not a leather-
mouthed fish: and after this manner
you may fish for him with almost a-
ny kind of live flie, but especially with
a *Grashopper*.

venat. But before you go further,
I pray good Master, what mean you
by a leather mouthed fish?

Pise. By a leather-mouthed fish,
I meane such as have their teeth in
their

their throat, as the *Chub* or *Cheven*, and so the *Barbel*, the *Gudgeon* and *Carp*, and divers others have; and the hook being stuck into the leather or skin of such fish does very seldom or never lose its hold: But on the contrary, a *Pike*, a *Pearch* or *Trout*, and so some other fish which have not their teeth in their throats, but in their monthes, which you shall observe to be very full of bones, and the skin very thin, and little of it: I say, of these fish the hook never takes so sure hold, but you often lose the fish unless he have gorg'd it.

Ven. I thank you good Master for this observation; but now what shall be done with my *Chub* or *Cheven* that I have caught?

Pisc. Marry Sir, it shall be given away to some poor body, for Ile warrant you Ile give you a *Trout* for your supper; and it is good beginning of your Art to offer your first fruits to the poor, who will both thank God and you for it, which I see

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see by your silence you seem to consent to. And for your willingnesse to part with it so charitably, I will also teach you more concerning *Chub* fishing: you are to note, that in *March* and *April* he is usually taken with wormes; in *May*, and *June* and *July* he will bite at any *fly*, or at *cherries*, or at *Beetles* with their legs and wings cut off, or at any kind of *Snail*, or at the black *Bee* that breeds in clay walls; and he never refuses a *Grasshopper* on the top of a swift stream, nor at the bottom the young *humble-bee* that breeds in long grass, and are ordinarily found by the Mower of it. In *August*, and in the cooler months a yellow *paste*, made of the strongest cheese, and pounded in a Morter with a little butter and saffron (so much of it as being beaten small will turn it to a lemmon colour). And some make a paste for the Winter monthes, at which time the *Chub* is accounted best (for then it is observed, that the forked bones are lost or turned into a kind

kind of gristle, especialiy if he be backed) with a paste made of cheese and Turpentine; he will bite also at a Minnow or Penk as a Trout will; of which I shall tell you more hereafter, and at divers other baits. But take this for a rule, that in hot weather he is to be fisht for towards the mid-water, or nearer the top; and in colder weather nearer the bottom. And if you fish for him on the top, with a Beetle or any fly, then be sure to let your line be very long, and to keep out of sight. And having told you that his Spawne is excellent, and that the head of a large Cheven is the best part of him, I will say no more of this fish at the present, but wish you may catch the next you fish for.

And now my next observation and direction shall bee concerning the *Trout* (which I love to angle for above any fish) but lest you may judge me too nice in urging to have the *Chub* drest so presently after he is taken,

ken, I will commend to your consideration how curious former times have been in the like kind.

You shall read in *Seneca* his Natural Questions (*Lib. 3. cap. 17*) that the Ancients were so curious in the newness of their fish, that that seemed not new enough that was not put alive into the guests hand; and he says that to that end, they did usually keep them living in glasse-bottels in their Dining rooms; and they did glory much in their entertaining of friends to have that fish taken from under their table alive, that was instantly to be fed upon. And he sayes, they took a great pleasure to see their Mullets change to several colours when they were dying. But enough of this, for I doubt I have stayed too long from giving you some observations of the *Trout*, and how to fish for him, which shall take up the next of my spare time.

CHAP. IV.

Observations of the nature and breeding of the Trout, and how to fish for him. And the Milk-maids Song.

Pisc. **T**HE Trout is a fish highly valued, both in this and forraigne Nations; he may be justly said, (as the old Poets said of Wine, and we English say of Venison) to be a generous fish; a fish that is so like the *Buck*, that he also has his seasons; for it is observed, that he comes in and goes out of season with the *Stag* and *Buck*. *Gesner* sayes, his name is of a Germane off-spring, and sayes, he is a fish that feeds clean and purely, in the swiftest streams, and on the hardest gravel; and that he may justly contend

tend with all fresh water fish, as the Mullet may with all Sea-fish for precedence and daintinesse of taste, and that being in right season, the most dainty palates have allowed it to him.

And before I go farther in my Discourse, let me tell you, that you are to observe, that as there be some *barren Does*, that are good in Summer, so there be some *barren Trouts* that are good in winter ; but there are not many that are so, for usually they be in their perfection in the month of *May*, and decline with the *Buck*. Now you are to take notice, that in several Countries, as in *Germany* and in other parts, compar'd to ours, they differ much in their bignesse, shape, and other wayes, and so do *Trouts* ; it is wel known that in the *Lake Lemon*, the *Lake of Geneva*, there are *Trouts* taken of three Cubits long, as is affirmed by *Gesner*, a Writer of good credit ; and *Mercator* sayes, the *Trouts* that are taken in the *Lake*
of

of *Geneva*, are a great part of the Merchandize of that famous City. And you are further to know, that there be certain waters that breed *Trouts*, remarkable, both for their number and smalness. I know a little Brook in *Kent* that breeds them to a number incredible, and you may take them twenty or forty in an hour, but none greater then about the size of a *Gudgion*: There are also in diyers rivers, especially that relate to, or be near to the Sea, (as *Winchester*, or the *Thames* about *Windfor*) a little *Trout* called a *Samlet* or *Skegger Trout* (in both which places I have caught twenty or fortie at a standing) that will bite as fast and as freely as *Minnowes*; these be by some taken to be young *Salmons*, but in those waters they never grow to be bigger then a *Herring*.

There is also in *Kent*, neer to *Canterbury*, a *Trout*, (called there a *Fordidg Trout*) a *Trout* (that beares the name of the Town where it is usu

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usually caught) that is accounted rare meat, many of them neere the bigness of a *Salmon*, but knowne by their different colour, and in their best season cut very white; and none have been knowne to be caught with an *Angle*, unlesse it were one that was caught by Sir *George Hastings*, an excellent Angler, (and now with God) and he hath told me, he thought that *Trout* bit not for hunger, but wantonness; and it is the rather to be believed, because both he then, and many others before him have been curious to search into their bellies what the food was by which they lived; and have found out nothing by which they might satisfie their curiositie.

Concerning which you are to take notice, that it is reported by good Authors, that there is a fish that hath not any mouth, but lives by taking breath by the porings of her gills, and feeds and is nourished by no man knowes what; and this may be believed

lieved of the *Fordidg Trout*, which (as it is said of the *Stork*, that he knowes his season, so he) knowes his times, (I think almost his day) of coming into that River out of the Sea, where he lives (and it is like feeds) nine months of the year, and about three in the River of *Fordidg*. And you are to note, that the Townsmen are very punctual in observing the very time of beginning to fish for them: and boast much that their River affords a Trout that exceeds all others. And just so doth *Sussex* boast of several fish; as namely, a *Shelfey Cockle*, a *Chichester Lobster*, an *Arundel Mullet*, and an *Amerly Trout*.

And now for some confirmation of the *Fordidg Trout*; you are to know that this Trout is thought to eat nothing in the fresh water; and it may be the better believed, because it is well known, that *Swallowes* which are not seene to flie in *England* for six months in the year, but about *Michaelmas* leave us for a hotter climate

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mate; yet some of them that have
 View Sir been left behind thier fel-
 Fra. Bacon lowes, have been found
 exper. 899. (many thousands at a
 time) in hollow trees, where they
 have been observed to live and sleep
 out the whole winter without meat;
 and so *Albertus* observes that there is
 one kind of *Frog* that hath
 See *Topsel* her mouth naturally shut up
 of frogs. about the end of *August*, and
 that she lives so all the winter, and
 though it be strange to some, yet it is
 known to too many among us to bee
 doubted.

And so much for these *Fordidg*
Trouts, which never afford an *Ang-*
ler sport, but either live their time
 of being in the fresh water by
 their meat formerly gotten in the
 Sea, (not unlike the *Swallow* or *Frog*)
 or by the vertue of the fresh water
 only, or as the birds of *Paradise*, and
 the *Camelion* are said to live by the
Sun and the *Aire*.

There is also in *Northumberland*,

a trout, called a *Bull-trout*, of a much greater length and bignesse then any in these Southern parts: and there is in many Rivers that relate to the Sea, *Salmon-trouts*, as much different from others, both in shape and in their spots, as we see Sheep differ one from another in their shape and bignesse, and in the fineness of their wool: and certainly, as some pastures do breed larger Sheep, so do some Rivers, by reason of the ground over which they run, breed larger *trouts*.

Now the next thing that I will commend to your consideration is, that the *trout* is of a more sudden growth then other fish: concerning which you are also to take notice, that he lives not so long as the *Pearch* and divers other fishes do, as *Sir Francis Bacon* hath observed in his *History of life and death*.

And next, you are to take notice, that after hee is come to his full growth, he declines in his bodie, but
F keeps

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keeps his bigness, or thrives in his head till his death. And you are to know that he will about (especially before) the time of his Spawning, get almost miraculously through *Weires* and *Floud gates* against the streame, even through such high and swift places as is almost incredible. Next, that the *Trout* usually Spawns about *October* or *November*, but in some Rivers a little sooner or later; which is the more observable, because most other fish Spawne in the Spring or Summer, when the Sun hath warmed both the earth and water, and made it fit for generation. And you are to note, that he continues many months out of season; for it may be observed of the *Trout*, that he is like the *Buck* or the *Oxe*, that will not be fat in many months, though he go in the very same pastures that horses do which will be fat in one month; and so you may observe, that most other fishes recover strength, and grow sooner fat and in season then the *Trout* doth. And

And next, you are to note, that till the Sun gets to such a height as to warm the earth and the water, the *Trout* is sick, and lean, and low sic, and unwholsom: for you shall in winter find him to have a big head, and then to be lank, and thin, & lean; at which time many of them have sticking on them Sugs, or *Trout* lice, which is a kind of a worm, in shape like a clove or pin, with a big head, and sticks close to him and sucks his moisture; those I think the *Trout* breeds himselfe, and never thrives til he free himself from them, which is till warm weather comes, and then as he growes stronger, hee gets from the dead, still water, into the sharp streames, and the gravel, and there rubs off these wormes or lice, and then as he growes stronger, so he gets him into swifter and swifter streames, and there lies at the watch for any flie or Minnow that comes near to him; and he especially loves the *May-flie* which is bred

of the *Cod-worm* or *Caddis*; and these make the *trout* bold and lustie, and he is usually fatter and better meat at the end of that month, then at any time of the year.

Now you are to know, that it is observed, that usually the best *trouts* are either red or yellow, though some (as the *Fordidg Trout*) be white and yet good; but that is not usual: and it is a note observable, that the female Trout hath usually a lesse head, and a deeper body then the male *Trout*; and a hog-back, and a little head to any fish, either *Trout*, *Salmon*, or other fish, is a sign that that fish is in season.

But yet you are to note, that as you see some Willows or Palm trees bud and blossom sooner then others do, so some Trouts be in some rivers sooner in season; and as the Holly or Oak are longer before they cast their leaves, so are some Trouts in some Rivers longer before they go out of season.

And

And you are to note, that there are several kinds of Trouts, though they all go under that general name : just as there be tame and wild *Pigeons*, and of tame there be *Croppers*, *Carriers*, *Runts*, and too many to name, which all differ, and so do *Trouts* in their bignesse, shape and colour; the great Kentish Hens may bee an instance compared to other Hens. And doubtlesse there is a kind of small Trout, which will never thrive to bee big, that breeds very many more then others do that be of a larger size; as you may the rather believe, if you consider that the little *Wren* and *Tumouse* will have twentie young at a time, when usually the noble *Hawk*, or the Musical *Thrassell* or *Black-bird* exceed not four or five.

And now I shall trie my skill to catch a Trout, and at my next walking either this evening, or to morrow morning I will give you direction how you your self shall fish for him.

Venat. Trust me, Master, I see now

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it is a harder matter to catch a *Trout* then a *Chub*; for I have put on patience, and followed you this two hours, and not seen a fish stir, neither at your Minnow nor your Worm.

Pisc. Well Scholer, you must indure worse luck sometime, or you will never make a good Angler. But what say you now? there is a *Trout* now, and a good one too, if I can but hold him, and two or three turnes more wil tire him: Now you see he lies still, and the sleight is to land him: Reach me that Landing Net: So (Sir) now hee is mine owne, what say you? is not this worth all my labourt and your patience?

Venat. On my word Master, this is a gallant *Trout*, what shall we do with him?

Pisc. Marrie ee'n eat him to supper: We'l go to my Hostis, from whence we came; she told me, as I was going out of door, that my brother

brother *Peter*, a good Angler, and a cheerful companion, had sent word he would lodge there to night, and bring a friend with him. My Host- is has two beds, and I know you and I may have the best: we'll re- joice with my brother *Peter* and his friend, tell tales, or sing Ballads, or make a Catch, or find some harmless sport to content us, and passe away a little time without offence to God or man.

Penat. A match, good Master, lets go to that house, for the linnen looks white, and smells of Lavender, and I long to lye in a pair of sheets that smell so: lets be going, good Master, for I am hungrie again with fishing.

Pisc. Nay, stay a little, good Scholer, I caught my last *Trout* with a Worm, now I will put on a Minow and try a quarter of an hour about yonder trees for another, and so walk towards our lodging. Look your Scholer, thereabout we shall

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have a bit presently, or not at all :
Have with you (Sir!) on my word I
have him. Oh it is a great logger-
headed *Chub*; Come, hang him upon
that Willow twig, and lets be going.
But turn out of the way a little, good
Scholer, towards yondet high hedg;
We'll sit whilst this showre falls so
gently upon the teeming earth, and
gives a sweeter smell to the lovely
flowers that adorn the verdant Mea-
dowes.

Look, under that broad *Beech tree*,
I sate down when I was last this way
a fishing, and the birds in the adjoin-
ing Grove seemed to have a friend-
ly contention with an Eccho, whose
dead voice seemed to live in a hol-
low cave, neer to the brow of that
Primrose hil, there I sate viewing the
silver streams glide silently towards
their center, the tempestuous Sea;
yet sometimes opposed by rugged
roots, and pibble stones, which
broke their waves, and turned them
into foam : and sometimes viewing
the

the harmlesse Lambs, some leaping securely in the cool shade, whilst others sported themselves in the cheerful Sun; and others were craving comfort from the swolne Udders of their bleating Dams. As I thus fate these and other sights had so fully possess'd my soul, that I thought as the Poet has happily exprest it:

*I was for that time list'd above earth;
And possess'd joies not promis'd in my birth.*

As I left this place, and entered into the next field, a second pleasure entertained me, 'twas a handsom milk-maid, that had cast away all care, and sung like a *Nightingale*; her voice was good, and the Ditty fitted for it; 'twas that smooth song which was made by *Kit. Marlow*, now at least fifty yeers ago; and the Milk-maids mother sung an answer to it, which was made by *Sir Walter Raleigh* in his younger daies.

They were old fashioned Poetrie;

F 5

but.

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but choicely good, I think much better then that now in fashion in this critical age. Look yonder, on my word, yonder they be both a milking againe; I will give her the *Chub*, and perswade them to sing those two songs to us.

Pisc. God speed, good woman, I have been a fishing, and am going to *Bleak Hall* to my bed, and having caught more fish then will sup my self and friend, will bestow this upon you and your daughter, for I use to sel none.

Milke. Marrie God requite you Sir, and we'l eat it cheerfully; and if you come this way a fishing two months hence, a grace of God Ile give you a Sillibub of new Verjuice, in a new made Hay-cock, and my *Maudlin* shal sing you one of her best *Ballads*, for she and I both love all *Anglers*, they be such honest, civil, quiet men; in the mean time, will you drink a draught of *Red Cowes milk*, you shall have it freely.

Pisc.

Pisc. No, I thank you, but I pray do us a courtesie that shall stand you and your daughter in nothing, and we wil think our selves stil something in your debt; it is but to sing us a Song, that that was sung by you and your daughter, when I last past over this Meadow, about eight or nine daies since.

Milk. What Song was it, I pray: was it, *Come shepherds deck your heads,* or, *As at noon Dulcina rested;* or *Philida flouts me?*

Pisc. No, it is none of those: it is a Song that your daughter sung the first part, and you sung the answer to it.

Milk. O I know it now, I learn'd the first part in my golden age, when I was about the age of my daughter; and the latter part, which indeed fits me best, but two or three years ago, when the cares of the world began to take hold of me; but you shall, God willing, hear them both. Come *Maudlin*, sing the first part to the Gentle

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Gentlemen with a merrie heart, and
Ile sing the second when you have
done.

The Milk maids Song.

Come live with me and be my Love,
And we will all the pleasures prove
That vallies, groves, or hils, or fields,
Or woods and steepy mountains yeilds.

Where we will sit upon the Rocks,
And see the Shepherds feed our flocks,
By shallow Rivers, to whose falls
Mellodious birds sing madrigals.

And I will make thee beds of Roses,
And then a thousand fragrant Posies,
A cap of Flowers and a Kirtle,
Imbroidered all with leaves of Mirtle.

A Gown made of the finest wool
Which from our pretty Lambs we pul;
Slippers lin'd choicely for the cold,
With buckles of the purest gold.

*A belt of straw, and ivie buds,
With coral clasps, and Amber studs :
And if these pleasures may thee move,
Come live with me, and be my Love.*

*Thy silver dishes for thy meat,
As precious as the gods do eat,
Shall on an Ivory table be
Prepar'd each day for thee and me.*

*The Shepherds Swains shal dance & sing
For thy delight each May morning.
If these delights thy mind may move,
Then live with me, and be my Love.*

Ven. Trust me, Master, it is a choice Song, and sweetly sung by honest *Mandlin*. I now see it was not without cause that our good Queen *Elizabeth* did so often with her selfe a Milk Maid all the Month of *May*, because they are not troubled with cares, but sing sweetly all the day, and sleep securely all the night; and without doubt, honest innocent pretty *Mandlin* does so. He bestow Sir Tho.

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*mas Overbury's Milk maids wish upon
her, That she may dye in the Spring, and
have good store of flowers stuck round a-
bout her winding sheet.*

The Milk maids Mothers Answer.

*If all the world and Love were young,
And truth in every shepherds tongue:
These pretty pleasures might me move,
To live with thee and be thy love.*

*But time drives flocks from field to fold
When rivers rage, and rocks grow cold,
And Philomel becometh dumb,
The Rest complains of cares to come.*

*The flowers do fade, and wanton fields
To wayward Winter reckoning yeilds.
A honey tongue, a heart of gall,
Is fancies spring, but sorrows fall.*

*Thy gowns, thy shooes, thy beds of roses,
Thy cap, thy kirtle, and thy posies,
Soon break, soon wither, soon forgotten,
In folly ripe, in reason rotten.*

Thy

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*Thy belt of straw and ivie buds,
Thy coral clasps and amber studs,
All these in me no means can move
To come to thee and be thy Love.*

*What should we talk of dainties then,
Of better meat then's fit for men?
These are but vain: that's only good
Which God hath blest, and sent for food.*

*But could youth last, and love stil breed,
Had joyes no date, nor age no need;
Then those delights my mind might
To live with thee & be thy love. (move*

Pisc. Well sung, good woman, I
thank you, I'll give you another dish
of fish one of these daies, and then
beg another Song of you. Come
Scholer, let *Mandlin* alone, do not
you offer to spoile her voice. Look,
yonder comes my Hostis to cal us to
supper. How now? is my brother
Peter come?

Host. Yes, and a friend with
him, they are both glad to hear you
are

are in these parts, and long to see you,
and are hungrie, and long to be at
supper.

CHAP. V.

*More Directions how to fish for,
and how to make the Trout an
Artificial Minnow and Fly; and
some merriment.*

Pisc.

WELL met brother
Peter, I heard you
and a friend would
lodge here to night, and that hath
made mee and my friend cast to
lodge here too: my friend is one
that would fain be a brother of the
Angle: he hath been an *Angler* but
this day, and I have taught him how
to catch a *Chub* by daping with a
Grashopper, and he hath caught a lusty
one of nineteen inches long. But I
pray

pray br other, who is it that is your companion?

Peter. Brother *Piscator*, my friend is an honest Country man, and his name is *Coridon*, a most downright, wittie, merrie companion that met me here purposely to eat a *Trout*, and to be pleasant, and I have not yet wet my line since I came from home: But I will fit him to morrow with a *Trout* for his breakfast, if the weather be any thing like.

Pisc. Nay brother, you shall not delay him so long, for look you, here is a *Trout*



will

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will fill six reasonable bellies. Come Hostis, dresse it presently, and get us what other meat the house will afford, and give us some of your best *barly wine*, the good liquor that our good honest forefathers did use to drink of, which preserved their health and made them live so long, and to do so manie good deeds.

Peter. On my word, this *Trout* is in perfect season. Come, I thank you, and here is a heartie draught to you, and to all the brothers of the Angle wheresoever they be, & to my young brothers good fortune to morrow; I wil furnish him with a rod, if you will furnish him with the rest of the tackling, we wil set him up and make him a fisher.

And I will tell him one thing for his incouragement, that his fortune hath made him happie to be a Scholar to such a Master; a Master that knows as much both of the nature and preeding of fish as any man; and can also tell him as well how to catch
and

and cook them, from the *Minnow* to the *Salmon*, as any that I ever met withal.

Pisc. Trust me, brother *Peter*, I find my Scholer to be so sutable to my own humour, which is to be free and pleasant, and civilly merrie, that my resolution is to hide nothing that I know from him. Believe me, Scholer, this is my resolution; and so here's to you a hearty draught, and to all that love us, and the honest Art of Angling.

Ven. Trust me, good Master, you shall not sow your seed in barren ground, for I hope to return you an increase answerable to your hopes; but however you shall find me obedient, and thankful, and serviceable to my best abilitie.

Pisc. 'Tis enough, honest Scholer, come lets to supper. Come my friend *Coridon*, this *Trout* looks lovely, it was twentie two inches when it was taken, and the belly of it looked some part of it as yellow as a *Mari-gold*,

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gold, and part of it as white as a lilly, and yet me thinks it looks better in this good sawce.

Cor. Indeed honest friend, it looks wel, and tastes wel, I thank you for it, and so does my friend *Peter*, or else he is to blame.

Pet. Yes, and so I do, we all thank you, and when we have supt, I will get my friend *Coridon* to sing you a Song for requital.

Cor. I will sing a song if any body wil sing another; else, to be plain with you, I will sing none: I am none of those that sing for meat, but for company; I say, 'Tis merrie in Hall, when men sing all.

Psc. I'l promise you I'l sing a song that was lately made at my request by Mr. *William Basse*, one that hath made the choice Songs of the *Hunter* in his careere, and of *Tom of Bedlam*, and many others of note; and this that I will sing is in praise of Angling.

Cor. And then mine shall be the praise

praise of a Countrie mans life: What wil the rest sing of?

Pet. I wil promise you I wil sing another Song in praise of Angling to morrow night, for we will not part til then, but fish to morrow, and sup together, and the next day every man leave fishing, and fall to his busi- nesse.

Venat. Tis a match, and I wil provide you a Song or a Ketch against then too, that shall give some addition of mirth to the company; for we wil be merrie.

Pisc. Tis a match my masters; lets ev'n say Grace, and turn to the fire, drink the other cup to wet our whistles, and so sing away all sad thoughts.

Come on my masters, who begins? I think it is best to draw cuts, and avoid contention.

Pet. It is a match. Look, the shortest cut fals to *Coridon*.

Cor. Well then, I wil begin, for I hate contention.

Cor-

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CORIDON'S Song.

*Oh the sweet contentment
The country man doth find !
high trolollie lolilloe
high trolollie lee,
That quiet contemplation
possesseth all my mind :
Then care away,
and wend along with me.*

*For Courts are full of flattery
As hath too oft been tri'd ;
high trolollie lollie loe &c.
The City full of wantonness,
and both are full of pride :
Then care away, &c.*

*But oh the honest country man
Speaks truly from his heart,
high trolollie lollie loe &c.
His pride is in his tillage,
his horses and his cart :
Then care away, &c.*

*Our clothing is good sheep skins,
Gray russet for our wives,
high trolollie lollie loe &c.
Tis warmth and not gay clothing
that doth prolong our lives :
Then care away, &c.*

*The ploughman, though he labor hard,
Yet on the Holy-day,
high trolollie lollie loe, &c.
No Emperor so merrily
does passe his time away:
Then care away, &c.*

*To recompence our tillage,
The Heavens afford us showers ;
high trolollie lollie loe, &c.
And for our sweet refreshments
the earth affords us bowers :
Then care away, &c.*

*The Cuckoe and the Nightingale
Full merrily do sing,
high trolollie lollie loe &c.
And with their pleasant roundelayes
bid welcome to the Spring.
Then care away, &c.*

This

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*This is not half the happiness
the country man enjoies ;*

high trolollie lollie loe &c.

*Though others think they have as much
yet he that sayes so lies :*

*Then come away, turn
Country man with me.*

Pisc. Well sung *Coridon*, this Song was sung with mettle, and it was choicely fitted to the occasion; I shall love you for it as long as I know you: I would you were a brother of the Angle, for a companion that is cheerful, and free from swearing and scurrilous discourse, is worth gold. I love such mirth as does not make friends ashamed to look upon one another next morning; nor men (that cannot well bear it) to repent the money they spend when they be warmed with drink: and take this for a rule; You may pick out such times and such companies, that you may make your selves merrier for a little then a great deal of money; for

Tis

'Tis the company and not the charge
that makes the feast: and such a com-
panion you prove, I thank you for
it.

But I wil not complement you out
of the debt that I ow you, and there-
fore I will begin my Song, and wish
it may be as well liked.

The ANGLERS Song.

*As inward love breeds outward talk,
The hound some praise, & som the hawk
Some better pleas'd with private sport,
Use Tennis, some a Mistris court:
But these delights I neither wish,
Nor envy, while I freely fish.*

*Who hunts, doth oft in danger ride;
Who hawks, lures oft both far and wide;
Who uses games, may often prove
A loser; but who falls in love,
Is fettered in fond Cupids snare;
My Angle breeds me no such care.*

*Of Recreation there is none
So free as fishing is alone;*

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All other pastimes do no less
Then mind and body both possess;
My hand alone my work can do,
So I can fish and study too.

I care not, I, to fish in seas,
Fresh rivers best my mind do please,
Whose sweet calm course I contemplate,
And seek in life to imitate;
In civil bounds I fain would keep,
And for my past offences weep.

And when the timerous Trout I wait
To take, and he devours my bait,
How poor a thing sometimes I find
Will captivate a greedy mind:
And when none bite, I praise the wise,
Whom vain allurements ne're surprise.

But yet though while I fish, I fast,
I make good fortune my repast;
And thereunto my friend invite,
In whom I more than that delight:
Who is more welcome to my dish,
Then to my angler was my fish.

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*As well content no prize to take
As use of taken prize to make ;
For so our Lord was pleased when
He Fishers made Fishers of men ;
Where (which is in no other game)
A man may fish and praise his name*

*The first men that our Saviour dear
Did chuse to wait upon him here,
Blest Fishers were, and fish the last
Food was, that he on earth did taste :
I therefore strive to follow those,
Whom he to follow him hath chose.*

*Cor. Well sung brother, you have
paid your debt in good coyn, we An-
glers are all beholding to the good
man that made this Song. Come
Hostis, give us more Ale, and lets
drink to him.*

*And now lets every one go to bed
that we may rise early ; but first lets
pay our Reckoning, for I will have
nothing to hinder me in the morning,
for my purpose is to prevent the Sun,
rising.*

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Pet. A match: Come *Coridon*, you are to be my Bed-fellow: I know brother you and your Scholer will lie together; but where shall we meet to morrow night? for my friend *Coridon* and I will go up the water towards *Ware*.

Pisc. And my Scholer and I will go down towards *Waltam*.

Cor. Then lets meet here, for here are fresh sheets that smel of *Lavender*, and I am sure we cannot expect better meat, or better usuage in any place.

Pet. 'Tis a match. Good night to every body.

Pisc. And so say I.

Ven. And so say I.

Pisc. Good morrow good Hostis, I see my brother *Peter* is still in bed: Come give my Scholer and me a mornings drink, and a bit of meat to break-fast, and be sure to get a good dish of meat or two against supper, for we shall come home as hungry as
Hawks.

Hawks. Come Scholer, lets be going.

Ven. Well now, good Master, as we walk towards the River, give me direction according to your promise, how I shall fish for a *Trout*.

Pisc. My honest Scholer, I will take this very convenient opportunity to do it.

The *Trout* is usually caught with a *Worm* or a *Minnow* (which some call a *Penke*;) or with a *Flie*; viz. either a *Natural* or an *Artificial* *flie*: Concerning which three I will give you some Observations and Directions.

And first for *Worms*; of these there be very many sorts; some bred only in the earth, as the *earth-worm*; others amongst or of plants, as the *dug-worm*; and others bred either out of excrements, or in the bodies of living creatures, as in the horns of sheep or deer, or some of dead flesh, as the *Magot* or *Gentle*; and others.

Now these be most of them par-

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ticularly good for particular fishes: but for the *Trout* the *dew-worm*, (which some also call the *Lob-worm*) and the *Brandling* are the chief; and especially the first for a great *Trout*, and the latter for a lesse. There be also of *lob-worms* some called *squirrel-tails*, (a worm that has a red head, a streak down the back, and a broad tail) which are noted to be the best, because they are the toughest, and most lively, and live longest in the water: for you are to know, that a dead worm is but a dead bait, and like to catch nothing, compared to a lively, quick, stirring worm. And for a *Brandling*, he is usually found in an old dunghil, or some very rotten place neer to it; but most usually in cow dung or hogs dung, rather than horse dung, which is somewhat too hot and dry for that worm.

There are also divers other kinds of wormes, which for colour and shape alter even as the ground out
of

of which they are got ; as the *marsh-worm*, the *tag-tail*, the *flag-worm*, the *deck-worm* , the *oak-worm*, the *gilt-tail* , the *twachel* or *lob-worm*, (which of all other is the most excellent bait for a *Salmon*) and too many to name, even as many sorts, as some think there be of several herbs or shrubs, or of several kinds of birds in the aire ; of which I shall say no more, but tell you, that what worms soever you fish with, are the better for being long kept before they be used ; and in case you have not been so provident, then the way to cleanse and scoure them quickly, is to put them all night in water, if they be *Lob-worms*, and then put them into your bag with fennel : but you must not put your *Brandling* above an hour in water, and then put them into fennel for sudden use : but if you have time, and purpose to keep them long, then they be best preserved in an earthen pot with good store of *mosse*, which is to be fresh

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every three or four daies in Summer, and every week or eight daies in winter; or at least the mosse taken from them, and clean washed, and wrung betwixt your hands till it bee dry, and then put it to them again. And when your worms, especially the Brandling begins to be sick, and lose of his bignesse, then you may recover him, by putting a little milk or cream (about a spoonful in a day) into them by drops on the mosse; and if there be added to the Cream an egge beaten and boiled in it, then it will both fatten and preserve them long. And for Mosse, you are to note, that there be divers kinds of it, which I could name to you, but will only tell you, that that which is likest a *Bucks horn* is the best, except it be white Mosse, which growes on some heaths, and is hard to be found. And note, that in a very drie time, when you are put to an extremity for wormes, Walnut tree leaves squeezeed into water, or salt in water, to make
it

it bitter or salt, and then that water powred on the ground will make worms appear above the earth.

For the *Minnow* or *Penk*, he is easily found and caught in April, for then he appears in the Rivers, but Nature hath taught him to shelter and hide himself in the Winter in ditches that be neer to the River, and there both to hide and keep himself warm in the mud or in the weeds, which rot not so soon as in a running River, in which place if he were in Winter, the distempered Floods that are usually in that season, would suffer him to take no rest, but carry him head-long to Mills and Weires to his confusion. And of these *Minnows*, first you are to know, that the biggest size is not the best; and next, that the middle size and the whitest are the best: and then you are to know, that I cannot well teach in words, but must shew you how to put it on your hook, that it may turn the better: And you are also to know, that it is impossible it

G 5

should

should turn too quick : And you are yet to know, that in case you want a Minnow; then a small *Loch*, or a *Sticklebag*, or any other small fish will serve as well : And you are yet to know, that you may salt, and by that means keep them fit for use three or four dayes or longer ; and that of salt, bay salt is the best.

And here let me tell you, what many old Anglers know right well, that at some time, in some waters a minnow is not to be got, and therefore let me tell you, I have (which I will shew to you) an *artificial minnow*, which will catch a Trout as well as an *Artificial Flie*, and it was made by a handsome Woman that had a live minnow lying by her : the mould or body of the minnow was cloth, and wrought upon or over it thus with a needle : the back of it with very sad French green silk, and paler greene silk towards the belly, shadowed as perfectly as you can imagine, just as you see a minnow ; the belly was wrought also with a needle, and it was
a part.

a part of it white filk, and another part of it with silver thred; the taile and fins were of a quill, which was shaven thin, the eyes were of two little black *beads*, and the head was so shadowed, and all of it so curiously wrought, and so exactly dissembled, that it would beguile any sharp sight-ed Trout in a swift stream. And this minnow I will now shew you, and if you like it, lend it you, to have two or three made by it, for they be easily carried about an Angler, and be of excellent use; for note, that a large Trout will come as fiercely at a minnow, as the highest mettle Hawk doth seize on a Partridg, or a Greyhound on a Hare. I have been told, that 160 minnowes have been found in a Trouts belly, either the Trout had devoured so many, or the Miller that gave it a friend of mine had forced them down his throat after he had taken him.

Now for *Flies*, which is the third bait wherewith Trouts are usually taken.

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Taken. You are to know, that there are as many sorts of Flies as there be of Fruits : I will name you but some of them, as the *dun-flye*, the *stone flye*, the *red flye*, the *moor-flye*, the *tawny flye*, the *shel flye*, the *cloudy*, or blackish flye, the *flag-flye*, the *vine-flye* : there bee of Flies, *Caterpillers* and *Canker-flyes*, and *Bear-flies*, and indeed too many either for me to name, or for you to remember : and their breeding is so various and wonderful, that I might easily amaze my self, and tire you in a relation of them.

And yet I will exercise your promised patience by saying a little of the *Caterpillar* or the *Palmer-flye* or *worm*, that by them you may guesse what a work it were in a Discourse but to run over those very many flies, worms, and little living creatures with which the Sun and Summer adorn and beautifie the River banks and meadows; both for the recreation and contemplation of the Angler; and
which

which (I think) I my self enjoy more then any other man that is not of my profession.

Pliny holds an opinion, that many have their birth or being from a dew that in the Spring falls upon the leaves of trees; and that some kinds of them are from a dew left upon herbs or flowers; and others from a dew left upon Colworts or Cabbages: All which kinds of dewes being thickned and condensed, are by the Suns generative heat most of them hatch'd, and in three daies made living creatures; and these of several shapes and colours; some being hard and tough, some smooth and soft; some are horned in their head, some in their tail, some have none; some have hair, some none, some have sixteen feet, some less, and some have none: but (as our *Topsel* hath with great diligence observed) those which have none, move upon the earth, or upon broad leaves, their motion being not unlike

In his history of Serpents.

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to the waves of the sea. Some of them he also observes to be bred of the eggs of other Caterpillers, and that those in their time turne to be *Butter-flies*: and again, that their eggs turne the following yeer to be *Caterpillers*. And some affirm, that every plant has his particular flye or Caterpillar, which it breeds and feeds. I have seen, and may therefore affirm it, a green Caterpillar or worm, as big as a small Peascod, which had fourteen legs, eight on the belly, four under the neck, and two neer the tail. It was found on a hedg of Privet, and was taken thence, and put into a large box and a little branch or two of Privet put to it, on which I saw it feed as sharply as a dog gnawes a bone; it lived thus five or six daies, and thrived, but by some neglect in the keeper of it, it then died and did not turn to a flye; but if it had lived, it had doubtlesse turned to one of those flies that some call flies of prey, which those that walk by the Rivers may in Summer.

Summer, see fasten on smaller flies, and I think make them their food.

'Tis endlesse to tell you what the curious Searchers into Natures productions, have observed of these Wormes and Flies: But yet I shall tell you what *Aldrovandus*, our *Topfel*, and others say of the *Canker*, or *Palmer-worme*, or *Caterpillar*; That whereas others content themselves to feed on particular herbs or leaves (for most think, those very leaves that gave them life and shape, gives them a particular feeding and nourishment, and that upon them they usually abide;) yet he observes, that this is called a *Pilgrim* or *Palmer-worm*, for his very wandring life and various food; not contenting himself (as others do) with any one certain place for his abode, nor any certain kind of herb or flower for his feeding; but will boldly and disorderly wander up and downe, and not endure to be kept.

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kept to a diet, or fixt to a particular place.

Nay, the very colour of *Caterpillers* are, as one has observed, very elegant and beautiful: I shal (for a taste of the rest) describe one of them, which I will sometime the next month, shew you feeding on a Willow tree, and you shall find him punctually to answer this very description; “His
 “lips and mouth somewhat yel-
 “low, his eyes black as Jet, his
 “fore-head purple, his feet and
 “hinder parts green, his tail two
 “forked and black, the whole body
 “stain’d with a kind of red spots
 “which run along the neck and
 “shoulder-blade, not unlike the form
 “of Saint *Andrews* Cross, or the let-
 “ter X, made thus cross-wise, and a
 “white line drawn downe his back
 “to his tail; all which add much
 “beauty to his whole body. And it is
 to me observable, that at a fixed age
 this *Caterpillar* gives over to eat, and
 towards winter comes to be covered
 over

over with a strange shell or crust, called an *Aurelia*, and so lives a kind of dead life, without eating all the winter & (as others of several kinds turn to be several kinds of flies and vermin, the Spring following) so this *Caterpillar* then turns to be a painted *Butterfly*.

View Sir
Fra. Bacon
exper. 728
& 90. in
his Natu-
ral History

Come, come my Scholer, you see the River stops our morning walk, and I will also here stop my discourse, only as we sit down under this *Honey Suckle* hedge, whilst I look a Line to fit the Rod that our brother *Peter* hath lent you, I shall for a little confirmation of what I have said, repeat the observation of *Du Bartas*.

God not contented to each kind to give,
And to infuse the vertue generative,
By his wise power made many creatues breed
Of livelesse bodies without Venus deed.

6 Day of
Du Bartas

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So the cold humor breeds the Salamander,
Who (in effect) like to her births commander,
With child with hundred winters, with her touch
Quencheth the fire though glowing ne're so much.

So in the fire in burning furnace springs
The Fly *Perausta* with the flaming wings;
Without the fire it dies, in it, it joyes,
Living in that which all things else destroys.

So slow Boötes underneath him sees View Gerhar.
Herbal. and
Cambden.
In th'icy Islands Goslings hatcht of trees
Whose fruitful leaves falling into the water,
Are turn'd ('tis known) to living fowls soon after.

So rotten planks of broken ships, do change
To Barnacles. Oh transformation strange!
'Twas first a green tree, then a broken hull,
Late a Mushroom, now a flying Gull.

Ken. O my good Master, this morning walk has been spent to my great pleasure and wonder: but I pray, when shall I have your direction how to make Artificial flies, like to those that the *Trout* loves best? and also how to use them?

Pisc. My honest Scholer, it is now past five of the Clock, we will fish til nine, and then go to Breakfast: Go you to yonder *Sycamore tree*,
and

and hide your bottle of drink under the hollow root of it; for about that time, and in that place, we will make a brave Breakfast with a piece of powdered Bief, and a Radish or two that I have in my Fish-bag; we shall, I warrant you make a good honest, wholesome, hungry Breakfast, and I will give you direction for the making and using of your flye: and in the mean time, there is your Rod and Line, and my advice is, that you fish as you see me do, and lets try which can catch the first fish.

Venat. I thank you, Master, I will observe and practice your direction as far as I am able.

Pisc. Look you Scholer, you see I have hold of a good fish: I now see it is a Trout; I pray put that net under him, and touch not my line, for if you do, then we break all. Well done, Scholer, I thank you.

Now for another. Trust me, I have another bite: Come Scholer, come lay

lay down your Rod, and help me to land this as you did the other. So now we shall be sure to have a good dish of fish for supper.

Venat. I am glad of that, but I have no fortune; sure Master, yours is a better Rod, and better Tackling.

Pisc. Nay then, take mine, and I will fish with yours. Look you Scholer, I have another: come, do as you did before. And now I have a bite at another. Oh me he has broke all, there's half a line and a good hook lost.

Ven. Master, I can neither catch with the first nor second Angle; I have no fortune.

Pisc. Look you, Scholer, I have yet another: and now having caught three brace of *Trouts*, I will tell you a short tale as we walk towards our Breakfast. 'A Scholer, (a Preacher I should say) that was to preach 'to procure the approbation of a Parish, that he might be their Lectu-

'rer, had got from his fellow Pupil,
'the copy of a Sermon that was
'first preached with a great commen-
'dation by him that composed and
'preacht it; and though the borrower
'of it preacht it word for word, as it
'was at first, yet it was utterly disliked
'as it was preached by the second;
'which the Sermon-Borrower com-
'plained of to the Lender of it, and
'was thus answered, I lent you indeed
'my *Fiddle*, but not my *Fiddlestick*;
'for you are to know, that every one
'cannot make musick with my words
'which are fitted for my own mouth.
And so my Scholer, you are to
know, that as the ill pronounciation
or ill accènting of words in a Ser-
mon spoiles it, so the ill carriage of
your Line, or not fishing even to a
foot in a right place, makes you lose
your labour: and you are to know,
that though you have my *Fiddle*,
that is, my very Rod and Tacklings
with which you see I catch fish, yet
you have not my *Fiddlestick*, that
is,

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is, skill to know how to carry your hand and line; and this must be taught you (for you are to remember I told you Angling is an Art) either by practice, or a long observation, or both. But take this for a rule, when you fish for a Trout with a worrne, let your line have so much, and not more lead then will fit the stream in which you fish; that is to say, more in a great troublesome stream then in a smaller that is quieter; as neere as may bee, so much as will sink the bait to the bottom, and keep it still in motion, and not more.

But now lets say Grace, and fall to Breakfast: what say you Scholer, to the providence of an old Angler? Does not this meat taste wel? and was not this place well chosen to eat it? for this *Sycamore* tree will shade us from the Suns heat.

Ven. All excellent good, and my stomack excellent good too. And I now remember and find that true which holy *Lesius* sayes, *That poor*

men

men, and those that fast often, have much more pleasure in eating then rich men and gluttons, that alwayes feed before their stomachs are empty of their last meat, and so rob themselves of that pleasure that hunger brings to poor men.

And I do seriously approve of that saying of yours, That you had rather be a civil well grounded, temperate poor Angler, then a drunken Lord. But I hope there is none such; however I am certain of this, that I have been at many very costly dinners that have not afforded me half the content that this has done, for which I thank God and you.

And now good Master, proceed to your promised direction for making and ordering my Artificiall flye.

Pisc. My honest Scholer, I will do it, for it is a debt due unto you by my promise: and because you shall not think your self more engaged to me then indeed you really are, I will freely give you such directions as
were

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were lately given to me by an ingenious brother of the Angle, an honest man, and a most excellent Fly-fisher.

You are to note, that there are twelve kinds of Artificial made Flies to Angle with upon the top of the water; (note by the way, that the fittest season of using these is in a blustering windy day, when the waters are so troubled that the natural flye cannot be seen, or rest upon them.) The first is the dun-flye in *March*; the body is made of dun-wool, the wings of the Partridges feathers. The second, is another dun-flye, the body of black wool, and the wings made of the black Drakes feathers, and of the feathers under his taile. The third is the stone fly in *April*, the body is made of black wool made yellow under the wings, and under the taile, and so made with wings of the Drake. The fourth is the ruddy flye in the beginning of *May*, the body made of red wool wrapt about with black silk
and

and the feathers are the wings of the Drake, with the feathers of a red capon, which hang dangling on his sides next to the tail. The fifth is the yellow flye (in *May* likewise) the body made of yellow wooll, and the wings made of the red cocks hackel or tail. The sixth is, the black-fly in *May*, the body made of black wool and lapt about with the herle of a Peacocks tail; the wings are made of the wings of a brown Capon with his blue feathers in his head. The seventh is the sad yellow flye, in *June*, the body is made of black wool, with a yellow list on either side, and the wings taken off the wings of a Buzzard, bound with black braked hemp. The eighth is the moorish flye made with the body of duskyish wool, and the wings made of the blackish mail of the Drake. The ninth is the tawny flye, good untill the middle of *June*; the body made of tawny wool, the wings made contrary one against the other, made of

H the

the whitish mail of the wild Drake. The tenth is the Wasp flye in *July*, the body made of black wool, lapt about with yellow silk, the wings made of the feathers of the Drake, or of the Buzzard. The eleventh is, the shel-flye, good in mid *July*, the body made of greenish wool, lapt about with the herle of a Peacocks tail; and the wings made of the wings of the Buzzard. The twelfth is the dark Drake flye, good in *August*, the body made with black wool, lapt about with black silk; his wings are made with the maile of the black Drake, with a black head. Thus have you a Jury of flyes likely to condemn all the Trouts in the River.

I shall next give you some other Directions for Fly-fishing, such as are given by Mr. *Tho. Barker*, a Gentleman that hath spent much time in fishing: but I shall do it with a little variation.

First, Let your Rod be light, and
very

very gentle ; I take the best to be of two pieces, and let not your Line exceed (especially for three or four links next to the hook) I say, not exceed three or four hairs at the most, though you may fish a little stronger above in the upper part of your Line; but if you can attain to Angle with one hair, you shall have more rises, and catch more fish. Now you must be sure not to cumber your self with two long a Line, as most do : and before you begin to angle , cast to have the wind on your back, and the Sun (if it shines) to be before you, and to fish down the stream; and carrie the point or top of your Rod downward, by which means the shadow of your selfe, and Rod too will bee the least offensive to the fish, for the sight of any shade amazes the fish, and spoils your sport, of which you must take a great care.

In the middle of *March* till which time a man should not in honestie catch a Trout; or in *April*, if the

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weather be dark, or a little windie, or cloudie, the best fishing is with the *Palmer-worm*, of which I last spoke to you; but of these there be divers kinds, or at least of divers colours; these and the *May-fly* are the ground of all Flie-Angling, which are to be thus made:

First, you must arme your hook with the line in the inside of it, then take you Scissers, and cut so much of a browne Malards feather as in your own reason wil make the wings of it, you having withal regard to the bignesse or littlenesse of your hook, then lay the outmost part of your feather next to your hook, then the point of your feather next the shank of your hook; and having so done, whip it three or four times about the hook with the same Silk, with which your hook was armed, and having made the Silk fast, take the hackel of a *Cock* or *Capons* neck, or a *Ploverstop*, which is usually better; take off the one side of the feather

ther, and then take the hackel, Silk or Crewel, Gold or Silver thred, make these fast at the bent of the hook, that is to say, below your arming; then you must take the hackel, the silver or gold thred, and work it up to the wings, shifting or still removing your fingers as you turn the Silk about the hook: and still looking at everie stop or turn, that your gold, or what materials soever you make your *Fly* of, do lie right and neatly; and if you find they do so, then when you have made the head, make all fast, and then work your hackel up to the head, and make that fast; and then with a needle or pin divide the wing into two, and then with the arming Silk whip it about cross-waies betwixt the wings, and then with your thumb you must turn the point of the feather towards the bent of the hook, and then work three or four times about the shank of the hook, and then view the proportion, and if all be neat and to your liking, fasten.

H 3 I con-

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I confesse, no direction can be given to make a man of a dull capacite able to make a Flie well; and yet I know, this with a little practice, will help an ingenuous Angler in a good degree; but to see a Flie made by an Artist in that kind, is the best teaching to make it, and then an ingenuous Angler may walk by the River and mark what Flie falls on the water that day, and catch one of them, if he see the *Trouts* leap at a flie of that kind, and then having alwaies hooks ready hung with him, and having a bag also, alwaies with him with Bears hair, or the haire of a browne or sad coloured Heifer, hackels of a Cock or Capon, severall coloured Silk and Crewel to make the bodie of the flie, the feathers of a Drakes head, black or browne Sheeps wool, or Hogs wool, or hair, thred of Gold and of Silver; silk of severall colours (especially sad coloured to make the flies head :) and there be also other coloured feathers
both

both of little birds and of peckled fowl. I say, having those with him in a bag, and trying to make a flie, though he miss at first, yet shall he at last hit it better, even to a perfection which none can well teach him; and if he hit to make his *Fly* right, and have the luck to hit also where there is store of *Trouts*, and a right wind, he shall catch such store of them, as will encourage him to grow more and more in love with the Art of *Fly-making*.

Venat. But my loving Master, if any wind will not serve, then I wish I were in *Lapland*, to buy a good wind of one of the honest *Witches*, that sell so manie winds, and so cheap.

Pisc. Marrie Scholer, but I would not be there, nor indeed from under this tree; for look how it begins to rain, and by the clouds (if I mistake not) we shall presently have a smoaking showre; and therefore sit close, this *Sycamore tree* will shelter us; and

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I will tell you, as they shall come into my mind, more observations of fly-fishing for a *Trout*.

But first, for the Wind; you are to take notice, that of the winds the *Southwind* is said to be best. One observes, That

*When the wind is south,
It blowes your bait into a fishes mouth.*

Next to that, the *west* wind is believed to be the best: and having told you that the *East* wind is the worst, I need not tell you which wind is the best in the third degree: And yet (as *Solomon* observes) that *He that considers the wind shall never sow*: so hee that busies his head too much about them, (if the weather be not made extreme cold by an *East* wind) shall be a little superstitious: for as it is observed by some, That there is no good horse of a bad colour, so I have observed, that if it be a cloudie day, and not extreme cold, let the wind sit in what corner

corner it will, and do its worst. And yet take this for a rule, that I would willingly fish standing on the Lee-shore: and you are to take notice that the Fish lies or swims neerer the bottome, and in deeper water in Winter, then in Summer; and also neerer the bottome in any cold day.

But I promised to tell you more of the Flie-fishing for a *Trout*, (which I may have time enough to do, for you see it rains *May butter*.) First for a *May-flie*, you may make his body with greenish coloured crewel, or willow colour; darkning it in most places, with waxed Silk, or rib'd with a black haire, or some of them rib'd with silver thred; and such wings for the colour as you see the flie to have at that season; nay at that very day on the water. Or you may make the *Oak-fly* with an Orange-tawny and black ground, and the brown of a Mallards feather for the wings, and you are to know, that

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these two are most excellent flies, that is, the *May-Flie*, and the *Oak Flie*: And let me again tell you, that you keep as far from the water as you can possibly, whether you fish with a flie or worm, and fish down the stream; and when you fish with a flie, if it be possible, let no part of your line touch the water, but your flie only; and be stil moving your flie upon the water, or casting it into the water, you your self being also alwaies moving down the streame. Mr. *Barker* commends severall sorts of the palmer flies, not only those rib'd with silver and gold, but others that have their bodies all made of black; or some with red; and a red hackel; you may also make the *Hawthorn-Fly*, which is all black, and not big, but very smal, the smaller the better; or the *Oak-Fly*, the body of which is Orange colour and black crewel, with a brown wing, or a fly made with a peacocks feather, is excellent in a bright day: you must be sure you want not
- in.

in your Magazine bag, the Peacocks feather, and grounds of such wooll and crewel as will make the Grass-hopper : and note, that usually, the smallest flies are best : and note also, that the light flye does usually make most sport in a dark day : and the darkest and least flye in a bright or clear day ; and lastly note, that you are to repair upon any occasion to your *Magazine bag*, and upon any occasion vary and make them according to your fancy.

And now I shall tell you, that the fishing with a natural flye is excellent, and affords much pleasure ; they may be found thus, the *May-fly* usually in and about that month neere to the River side, especially against rain ; the *Oak-flye*, on the butt or body of an *Oak* or *Ash*, from the beginning of *May* to the end of *August*, it is a brownish fly, and easie to be so found, and stands usually with his head downward ; that is to say, towards the root of the tree ; the small
black

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black fly, or hawthorn fly is to be had on any Hawthorn bush, after the leaves be come forth; with these, and a short Line (as I shewed to Angle for a *Chub*) you may dape or dop, and also with a *Grashopper*, behind a tree, or in any deep hole, still making it to move on the top of the water, as if it were alive, and still keeping your self out of sight, you shall certainly have sport if there be *Trouts*; yea, in a hot day, but especially in the evening of a hot day.

And now, Scholer, my direction for fly-fishing is ended with this shovre, for it has done raining, and now look about you, and see how pleasantly that Meadow looks, nay and the earth smells as sweetly too. Come let me tell you what holy Mr. *Herbert* saies of such daies and Flowers as these, and then we will thank God that we enjoy them, and walk to the River and sit down quietly, and try to catch the other brace of *Trouts*.

Sweet

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*Sweet day, so cool, so calm, so bright,
The bridal of the earth and skie,
Sweet dewes shal weep thy fall to night,
for thou must die.*

*Sweet Rose, whose hew angry and brave
Bids the rash gazer wipe his eye,
Thy root ~~is~~ ever in its grave,
and thou must die.*

*Sweet Spring, ful of sweet daies & roses,
A box where sweets compacted lie;
My Musick shewes you have your closes,
and all must die.*

*Only a sweet and vertuous soul,
Like seasoned timber never gives,
But when the whole world turns to cole;
then chiefly lives.*

Venat. I thank you, good Master,
for your good direction for fly-fish-
ing, and for the sweet enjoyment of
the pleasant day, which is so far spent
without offence to God or man: and
I thank you for the sweet close of
your

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your discourse with Mr. *Herberts* Verses, which I have heard loved Angling; and I do the rather believe it, because he had a spirit sutable to Anglers, and to those Primitive Christians that you love, and have so much commended.

Pisc. Well, my loving Scholer, and I am pleased, to know that you are so well pleased with my direction and discourse;

And since you like these Verses of Mr. *Herberts* so well, let mee tell you what a Reverend and Learned Divine, that professes to imitate him, (and has done so most excellently) hath writ of our *Service Book*, which I know you will like the better, because he is a friend of mine, and I am sure no enemy to *Angling*.

What? prayer by the book? and common? Yes, why not?

*The Spirit of Grace,
And Supplication,
Is not left free alone*

For

For time and place,
But manner too : to read or speak by rote,
Is all alike to him, that prays
In's heart, what with his mouth he says.

They that in private, by themselves alone
Do pray, may take
What liberty they please;
In chusing of the wayes
Wherein to make
Their souls most intimate affections knowne
To him that sees in secret, when
Th'are most conceal'd from other men.

But hee, that unto others leads the way
In publick prayer,
Should do it so
As all that hear may know
They need not fear
To tune their hearts unto his tongue, and say,
Amen; nor doubt they were betraid
To blaspheme, when they should have pray'd.

Devotion will add life unto the Letter,
And why should not
That which Authority
Prescribes, esteemed be
Advantage got?
If th' prayer be good, the commoner the better,
Prayer in the Churches words, as well
As sense, of all prayers bears the bell.

And

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And now, Scholer, I think it will be time to repaire to our Angle Rods which we left in the water to fish for themselves, and you shall chuse which shall be yours; and it is an even lay, one of them catches.

And let me tell you, this kind of fishing and laying Night-hooks, are like putting money to Use, for they both work for the Owners; when they do nothing but sleep, or eat, or rejoyce, as you know we have done this last hour, and sate as quietly and as free from cares under this *Sycamore*, as *Virgils Tityrus* and his *Melibæus* did under their broad *Beech* tree: No life, my honest Scholer, no life so happie and so pleasant, as the life of a well governed *Angler*; for when the *Lawyer* is swallowed up with businesse, and the *States-man* is preventing or contriving plots, we sit on *Cowslip* banks, hear the Birds sing, and possesse our selves in as much quietnesse as these silver streames, which we now see glide by us.

And

And now let me tel you my honest Scholer, what an accidental piece of merriment chanced last Summer, as I and a brother of the Angle (which will prove worth your acquaintance) fate under this *Honey-Suckle hedg*; it was thus: On the other side of this very hedg fate a gang of *Gypsies*, and neere to them fate a gang of *Beggers*: The *Gypsies* were then to divide all the money that had been got that week, either by stealing linnen or poultrie, or by Fortune telling, or Ledgerdemaine, or indeed by any other sleights and secrets belonging to their mysterious Government. And the summe that was got that week proved to bee but twenty and some odd shillings. The odde money was agreed to be distributed amongst the poor of their own Corporation; and for the remaining twentie shillings, that was to be divided unto four Gentlemen *Gypsies*, according to their degrees in their Commonwealth.

And

And the first or chiefeſt Gypſie, was to have a third part of the twenty ſhillings, which all men know is 6 s. 8 d.

The ſecond was to have a fourth part of the 20 s. which all men know to be 5 s.

The third was to have a fifth part of the 20 s. which all men know to be 4 s.

The fourth and laſt Gypſie was to have a fixth part of the 20 s. which all men know to be 3 s 4 d.

As for example,

3 times 6 s. 8 d. is 20 s.

And ſo is 4 times 5 s. 20 s.

And ſo is 5 times 4 s. 20 s.

And ſo is 6 times 3 s. 4 d. 20 s.

And yet he that divided the money was ſo very a Gypſie, that though he gave to every one theſe ſaid ſums, yet he kept one ſhilling of it for himſelf.

As

As for example,	s.	d.
	6	8
	5	0
	4	0
	3	4
makes but	19	0

But now you shal know, that when the four Gypsies saw he had got one shilling by dividing the money, though not one of them know why to demand more, yet every Gypsie said, *the remaining shilling belonged to him*: And so they fell to so high a contest about it, as none that knowes the faithfulness of one Gypsie to another, will easily believe, only we that have lived this last twentie years, are certain, that money has been able to do much. However the Gypsies were too wise to go to Law, and did therefore chuse their choice friends *Rook* and *Shark*, and our late English *Gusman* to be their Arbitrators and Umpire; and so they left this *Honey-suckle hedg*, and went to *Tell Fortunes*, and

and cheat, and get more money and lodging in the next Village.

When these were gone, we heard as high a contention amongst the beggers, *Whether it was easiest to rip a Cloak, or to unrip a cloak?* One begger affirmed it was all one, but that was denyed by asking her, *if doing and undoing were all one?* then another said, *'Twas easiest to unrip a cloak,* for that was to let it alone. But shee was answered, by asking her, how she unript it, if she let it alone? And she confest her self mistaken. These and twentie such like questions were proposed and answered with as much beggarly Logick and earnestnesse as was ever heard to proceed from the mouth of the most pertinacious Schismatick; and sometimes all the Beggars (whose number was neither more nor lesse then the Poets nine Muses) talk'd all together, and none heard what the other said; but at last one beggar crav'd audience, and told them, that old father *Clause*, whom

Ben.

Ben. Johnson in his beggers bush created King of their Corporation, was that night to lodge at an Ale-house called *Catch-her-by-the-way*, not far from *Waltam Crosse*, and in the high-
rode towards *London*, and desired them to spend no more time about that, and the rest of their like questions, but draw cuts what Song should be next sung, and who should sing it, They all agreed to the motion, and the lot fell to her that was the youngest and veryest Virgin of the company; and she sung *Frank Davisons* Song, which he made forty years ago, and all the other of the company joined to sing the burthen with her; the Ditty was this,

*Bright shines the Sun, play beggers play,
here's scraps enough to serve to day:*

*What noise of viols is so sweet
As when our merry clappers ring?
What mirth doth want when beggers meet?
A beggers life is for a King:
Eat, drink and play, sleep when we list,
Go where we will so stocks be mist.*

Bright

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*Bright shines the Sun, play beggers play,
here's scraps enough to serve to day.*

*The world is ours, and ours alone,
For we alone have world at will;
We purchase not, all is our own,
Both fields and streets we beggers fill:
Play beggers play, play beggers play,
here's scraps enough to serve to day.*

*A hundred herds of black and white
Upon our Gowns securely feed,
And yet if any dare us bite,
He dies therefore as sure as Creed:
Thus beggers Lord it as they please,
And only beggers live at ease:
Bright shines the Sun, play beggers play,
here's scraps enough to serve to day.*

Venat. I thank you good Master,
for this piece of merriment, and this
Song, which was well humoured by
the Maker, and well remembered by
you.

Pisc. But I pray forget not the
Ketch which you promised to make
against night, for our Country
man, honest Coridon will expect
your

your Ketch and my Song, which I must be forced to patch up, for it is so long since I learnt it, that I have forgot a part of it. But come, now it hath done raining, lets stretch our legs a little in a gentle walk to the River, and try what interest our Angles will pay us for lending them so long to bee used by the *Trouts*, for our profit and their destruction.

Venat. Oh me, look you Master, a fish, a fish.

Pisc. I marry Sir, that was a good fish indeed; if I had had the luck to have taken up that Rod, 'tis twenty to one, he should not have broke my line by running to the Rods end as you suffered him; I would have held him within the bent of my Rod, unlesse he had been fellow to the great *Trout* that is neere an ell long, which was of such a length and depth, that he had his picture drawn, and now to be seen at mine Hoste *Rickabies* at the *George in Ware*; and it may be, by giving

ving that *Trout* the Rod, that is, by casting it to him into the water, I might have caught him at the long run, for so I use alwayes to do when I meet with an overgrown fish, and you will learn to do so too hereafter ; for I tell you, Scholer, fishing is an Art, or at least, it is an Art to catch fish.

Venat. But Master, I have heard, that the great *Trout* you speak of, is a *Salmon*.

Pisc. Trust me Scholer, I know not what to say to it. There are not many Country people that believe *Hares* change Sexes every year, but there be very many learned men think so too : and they in their dissecting them, find many reasons to incline them to that belief. And whether this were a *Salmon* when he came into the fresh water, and his not returning into the sea hath altered him to another colour or kind, I am not able to say ; but I am certain he hath all the signes of being a *Trout*, both
for

for his *shape, colour, and spots*, and yet many think he is not.

Venas. But Master, will this *Trou*
dy ? for it is like he hath the hook in
his belly.

Pisc. I wil tel you, Scholer, that un-
lesse the hook be fast in his very
Gorge, he will live, and a little time
with the help of the water, will rust
the hook, and it will in time wear a-
way; as the gravel doth in the horse
hoof, which only leaves a false quar-
ter.

And now Scholer, lets go to my
Rod. Look you Scholer, I have a
fish too, but it proves a logger-head
ed *Chub* ; and this is not much amiss,
for this will pleasure some poor bo-
dy, as we go to our lodging to meet
our brother *Peter* and honest *Coridon*.
Come, now bait your hook again, and
lay it into the water, for it rains again;
and we will ev'n retire to the *Sycamore*
tree, and there I will give you more
directions concerning fishing ; for I
would fain make you an Artist.

- I

Venas.

Venat. Yes, good Master, I pray let it be so.

Pisc. Well Scholer, now we are fate down and are at ease, I shall tell you a little more of *Trout* fishing, before I speak of the *Salmon* (vvhich I purpose shall be next,) and then of the *Pike* or *Luce*. You are to know, there is night as well as day-fishing for a *Trout*, and that then the best are out of their holds; and the manner of taking them, is on the top of the water with a great *Lob* or *Garden worm*, or rather two; which you are to fish for in a place where the waters runs somewhat quietly (for in a stream it will not be so well discerned.) I say, in a quiet or dead place neer to some swift, there draw your bait over the top of the water to and fro, and if there be a good *Trout* in the hole, he will take it, especially if the night be dark: for then he is bold and lies neer the top of the water, watching the motion of any *Frog*, or *Water-rat* or *Mouſe* that swims be-

twixt

twixt him and the skie, which hee hunts after, if hee sees the water but wrinkle, or move in one of these dead holes, where these great old Trouts usually lye neer to their holds; for you are to note, that the great old Trout is both subtil and fearful, and lies close all day, and does not usually stir out of his hold, but lies in it as close in the day as the *timorous hare* does in her forme; for the chief feeding of both is seldome in the day, but usually in the night, and then the great Trout feeds very boldly.

And you must fish for him with a strong Line, and not a little Hook, and let him have time to gorge your hook, for he does not usually forsake it, as hee oft will in the day-fishing: and if the night be not dark, then fish so with an *Artificial flye* of a light colour; nay, he will sometimes rise at a dead Mouse, or a piece of cloth, or any thing that seemes to swim crosse the water; or to be in motion: this is a choice way, but I
I 2 have

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have not oft used it, because it is void of the pleasures that such dayes as these, that we two now enjoy, afford an Angler.

And you are to know, that in *Hampshire*, which I think exceeds all *England* for swift, shallow, clear pleasant Brooks, and store of *Trouts*, they use to catch *Trouts* in the night, by the light of a Torch or straw, which when they have discovered, they strike with a Trout-spear. This kind of way they catch very many, but I would not believe it til I was an eye-witnesse of it, nor do I like it now I have seen it.

Venat. But Master, do not *Trouts* see us in the night?

Pisc. Yes, and hear, and smel too, both then and in the day time, for *Gefner* observes, the *Otter* smels a fish fortie furlong off him in the water; and that it may be true, seemes to be affirmed by Sir *Francis Bacon* (in the eighth Century of his Natural History) who there proves, that waters may be

be the *Medium* of sounds, by demonstrating it thus, *That if you knock two stones together very deep under the water, those that stand on a bank neer to that place may hear the noise without any diminution of it by the water.* He also offers the like experiment concerning the letting an *Anchor* fall by a very long cable or rope on a rock, or the sand within the Sea: and this being so well observed and demonstrated, as it is by that learned man, has made me to believe, that Eccles unbed themselves, & stir at the noise of the Thunder, and not only, as some think, by the motion or the stirring of the earth which is occasioned by that Thunder.

And this reason of Sir *Francis Bacon* (*Exper. 792.*) has made me crave pardon of one that I laugh at, for affirming that he knew *Carps* come to a certain place in a Pond to be fed at the ringing of a Bell; and it shall be a rule for me to make as little noise as I can when I am fishing, until Sir

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Francis Bacon be confuted, which I shall give any man leave to do.

And least you may think him singular in this opinion, I will tell you, this seems to bee believed by our learned Doctor *Hackwell*, who (in his *Apologie of Gods Power and Providence* f. 360) quotes *Pliny* to report that one of the Emperors had particular Fish-Ponds, and in them several fish, that appeared and came when they were called by their particular names. And *Pliny* tells us, (*Lib. 9. 35*) That *Antonia* the wife of *Drusus* had a *Lamprey* at whose gills shee hung Jewels or Ear-rings; and that others have been so tender hearted as to shed tears at the death of fishes, which they have kept and loved. And these observations, which will to most hearers seeme wonderful, seem to have a further confirmation from *Martial*, (*Lib. 4. Epigr. 30.*) who writes thus:

Piscator fuge ne nocens, &c.

Angler,

Angler, would'st thou be guiltlesse? then forbear,
For these are sacred fishes that swim here;
Who know their Sovereigne, and will lick his hand;
Then which none greater in the worlds command:
Nay more, th' have names, and when they called are,
Do to their severall owners Call repaire.

All the further use that I shall
make of this, shall be to advise Ang-
lers to be patient, and forbear swea-
ring, lest they be heard, and catch no
fish.

And so I shall proceed next to tell
you, it is certain, that certain fields
neer *Lemster*, a Town in *Hereford-*
shire, are observed, that they make
the Sheep that graze upon them
more fat then the next, and also to
beare finer wooll; that is to say,
that that year in which they feed in
such a particular pasture, they shall
yeild finer wooll then the yeer before
they came to feed in it, and courser
again if they shall return to their for-
mer pasture: and again return to a
finer wool, being fed in the fine wool
ground. Which I tell you, that you
may the better believe that I am cer-
I 4 taine,

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tain, if I catch a *Trout* in one Meadow, he shall be *white* and *faint*, and very like to be *lowfie*; and as certainly if I catch a *Trout* in the next Meadow, he shall be *strong*, and *red*, and *lust*y, and much better meat: Trust me, Scholer, I have caught many a *Trout* in a particular Meadow, that the very shape, and the inamell'd colour of him, hath been such, as hath joyed mee to look on him; and I have with much pleasure concluded with *Solomon*, *Every thing is beawifull in his season.*

I should by promise speak next of the *Salmon*; but I will by your favor say a little of the *Umber* or *Grayling*.

CHAP

CHAP. VI.

Observations of the Umber, or Grayling, and directions how to fish for them.

Pisc. **T**HE Umber and Grayling are thought by some to differ as the Herring and Pilcher do; but though they may do so in other Nations, I think those in England differ nothing, but in their names. *Aldrovandus* sayes they be of a Trout kind; and *Gesner* sayes, that in his Country, (which is *Switzerland*) he is accounted the choicest fish. And in *Italy*, he is in the month of *May* so highly valued, that he is sold then at a much higher rate then any other fish. The French, (which call the Chub, *Un villan*) call the Umber of the Lake *Lemon*, *Un Umble Chevaliere*; and they value the Um-

ber or Grayling so highly, that they say he feeds on gold, and that many have been caught out of their famous River of *Loyre*, out of whose bellies grains of gold have been often taken. And some think that hee feeds on Water-Time, and smells so at his first taking out of the water; and they may think so with as good reason as we do, that our Smelts smel like Violets at their being first caught. *Aldrovandus* sayes, the *Salmon*, the *Grayling* and *Trout*, and all fish that live in clear and sharp streames, are made by nature their mother of such exact shape and pleasant colours, purposely to invite us to a joy and contentednesse in feasting with her. Whether this is a truth or not, is not my purpose to dispute, but 'tis certaine, all that write of the *Umber*, declare him to be very Medicinable. And *Gesner* sayes, that the fat of a *Grayling* being set with a little honey a day or two in the Sun in a little glass, is very excellent against rednesse.

ness, or any thing that breeds in the eyes. *Salvian* takes him to be called *Umber* from his swift swimming or gliding out of sight, more like a shadow or a Ghoste then a fish. Much more might be said both of the smell and taste, but I shal only tell you, that *Saint Ambrose* the glorious Bishop of *Millan* (who liv'd when the Church kept Fasting dayes) calls him the *flowre fish*, or *flowre of fishes*; and that he was so far in love with him, that he would not let him pass without the honour of a long Discourse; but I must, and pass on to tell you how to take this dainty fish.

First, Note, That he growes not to the bignesse of a Trout; for the biggest of them do not usually exceed eighteen inches, he lives in such Rivers as the Trout does, and is usually taken with the same baits as the Trout is, and after the same manner, for he wil bite both at the *Minnow*, or *Worm*, or *Fly*, (though he bites not often at the *Minnow*) and is very gane some:

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at the *Fly*, and much bolder then a Trout, for he will rise twenty times at a flye, if you miss him, and yet rise again. He has been taken with a fly made of the red feathers of a *Parakeeta*, a strange outlandish bird, and he will rise at a flye not unlike a gnat or a small moth, or indeed, at most flies that are not too big. He is a fish that lurks close all winter, but is very pleasant and jolly after mid-*April* and in *May*, and the hot months: he is of a fine shape, his flesh is white, his teeth, those little ones that he has, are in his throat, yet has so tender a mouth, that he is oftner lost after an Angler has hooked him then any other fish. Though there bee many of these fishes in *Trent*, and some other smaller Rivers, as that which runs by *Salisbury*, yet he is not so general a fish as the *Trout*, nor to me so good to eat or to Angle for. And so I shall take my leave of him, and come to some observations of the *Salmon*, and how to catch him.

CHAP

CHAP. VII.

*Observations of the Salmon,
with Directions how to fish for
him.*

Pisc. **T**HE *Salmon* is accounted the King of fresh water fish, and is ever bred in Rivers relating to the sea, yet so high or far from it, as admits of no tincture of salt or brackishness, He is said to breed or cast his spawn in most Rivers in the month of *August*: some say, That then they dig a hole or grave in a safe place in the gravel, and there place their eggs or spawn (after the Melter has done his natural Office) and then hide it most cunningly, and cover it over with gravel and stones; and so leave it to their Creators protection, by whose power the Spawne becomes

comes Samlets the next Spring following.

The *Salmon* having spent their appointed time, and done this Natural Duty in the fresh waters, they haste to the Sea before Winter, both the Melter and Spawner: but if they be stopt by *Floudgates* or *Weres*, or lost in the fresh waters, then those so left behind, by degrees grow *sick*, and *lean*, and *unseasonable*, and *kipper*, that is to say, have bony gristles grow out of their lower chaps (not unlike a Hawks beak) which hinders their feeding, and in time such fish so left behind, pine away and dye. 'Tis observed, that he may live thus one year from the Sea; but he then grows insipid, and tasteless, and loses both his blood and strength, and pines and dies the second year. And 'tis noted, that those little *Salmons*, called *Skeggers*, which abound in many Rivers relating to the Sea, are bred by such sick *Salmon*, that might not go to the sea, and that
though

though they abound, yet they never thrive to any bigness.

But if the old *Salmon* gets to the *Sea*, then that gristle weares away, or is cast off (as the *Eagle* is said to cast his bill) and hee recovers his strength, and comes next Summer to the same River (if it be possible) to enjoy the former pleasures that there possesst him; for (as one has wittily observed) he has (like some persons of Honour and Riches, which have both their winter and Summer houses) the fresh Rivers for Summer, and the salt water for winter to spend his life in; which is not (as Sir *Francis Bacon* hath observed in his *History of Life and death*) above ten years: And it is to be observed, that though they grow big in the *Sea*, yet they grow not fat but in fresh Rivers; and it is observed, that the further they get from the *Sea*, the better they be.

Next, I shall tell you, that though
they

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they make very hard shift to get out of the fresh Rivers into the Sea, yet that they will make harder shift to get out of the salt into the fresh Rivers, to spawne or possesse the pleasures that they have formerly found in them; to which end they will force themselves through *Flood-gates* or over *Weires* or *hedges*, or *stops* in the water, even beyond common belief. *Gesner* speaks of such places, as are knowne to be above eight foot high above water. And our *Cambden* mentions in his *Britania* the like wonder to be in *Pembroke-shire*, where the River *Tivy* falls into the sea, and that the fall is so down-right, and so high, that the people stand and wonder at the strength and flight that they see the *Salmon* use to get out of the Sea into the said River; and the manner and height of the place is so notable, that it is knowne far by the name of the *Salmon-leap*, concerning which, take this also out of honest *Michael Drayton*.

And

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And when the Salmon seeks a fresher stream to find,
 (Which hither from the Sea comes yearly by his kind)
 As he towards season grows, and stems the watry tract
 Where Tivy falling down, makes an high cataract,
 Forc'd by the rising Rocks that there her course oppose,
 As though within her bounds they meant her to inclose:
 Here when the labouring fish does at the foot arrive,
 And finds that by his strength he does but vainly strive,
 His tail takes in his mouth, and bending like a bow
 That's to full compasse drawn, aloft himself doth throw,
 Then springing at his height as doth a little wand
 That bended end to end, and started from mans hand,
 Far off it self doth cast; so does the Salmon vault,
 And if at first he fail, his second Summer sought,
 He instantly essaies, and from his nimble ring,
 Still jerking, never leaves until himself he fling
 Above the opposing stream. —

And next I shall tell you, that it is observed by *Gesner* and others, that there is no better *Salmon* then in *England*; and that though some of our Northern Countries have as fat and as large as the River *Thames*, yet none are of so excellent a taste.

And as I have told you that *Sir Francis Bacon* observes, the age of a *Salmon* exceeds not ten years, so let me next tell you, that his growth is very sudden: it is said, that after he is got into the Sea, he becomes from

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a *Samlet*, not so big as a *Gudgion*, to be a *Salmon*, in as short a time as a *Gosling* becomes to be a *Goose*. Much of this has been observed by tying a *Ribband* or some known *Tape* or *thred*, in the tail of some young *Salmons*, which have been taken in *Weirs* as they have swimm'd toward the salt water, and then by taking a part of them againe with the knowne mark at the same place at their return from the *Sea*, which is usually about six months after; and the like experiment hath been tried upon young *Swallows*, who have after six months absence, been observed to return to the same chimney, there to make their nests and habitations for the Summer following; which has inclined many to think, that every *Salmon* usually returns to the same River in which it was bred, as young *Pigeons* taken out of the same *Dove-cote*, have also been observed to do.

And you are yet to observe further, that the *He Salmon* is usuall bigger

ger then the Spawner, and that he is more kipper, and less able to endure a winter in the fresh water, then the She is; yet shee is at that time of looking less kipper and better, as watry, and as bad meat.

And yet you are to observe, that as there is no general rule without an exception, so there is some few Rivers in this Nation, that have *Trouts* and *Salmon* in season in winter, as 'tis certaine there be in the River *Wy* in *Munmoth-shire*, where they be in season (as *Cambden* observes) from *September* till *April*. But the observation of this, and many other things, I must in manners omit, because they wil prove too large for our narrow compass of time, and therefore I shall next fal upon my direction how to fish for the *Salmon*.

And for that, first, you shall observe, that usually he staves not long in a place (as *Trouts* will) but (as I said) covets still to go neerer the
Spring

Spring head; and that he does not (as the *Trout* and many other fish) lie near the water side or bank, or roots of trees, but swims usually in the middle, and neere the ground; and that there you are to fish for him; and that he is to be caught as the *Trout* is, with a *Worm*, a *Minnow*, (which some call a *Penke*) or with a *Fly*.

And you are to observe, that he is very seldome observed to bite at a *Minnow*, (yet sometime he will) and not oft at a *fly*, but more usually at a *Worm*, and then most usually at a *Lob* or *Garden-worm*, which should be well scoured, that is to say, seven or eight daies in *Mosse* before you fish with them; and if you double your time of eight into sixteene, or more, into twentie or more daies, it is still the better, for the worms wil still be clearer, tougher, and more lively, and continue so longer upon your hook.

Note also, that many use to fish
for

for a *Salmon*, with a ring of wyer on the top of their Rod, through which the Line may run to as great a length as is needful when he is hook'd. And to that end, some use a wheele about the middle of their Rod, or neerer their hand, which are to be observed either by seeing them, or a larger demonstration of words.

And now I shall tell you, that which may be called a secret: I have been a fishing with old *Oliver Henly*, (now with God) a noted Fisher, both for *Trout* and *Salmon*, and have observed, that he would usually take three or four worms out of his bag, and put them into a little box in his pocket, where he would usually let them continue half an hour or more, before he would bait his hook with them; I have asked him his reason, and he has replied, *He did but pick the best out to be in a readinesse against he baited his hook the next time*: But he has been observed both by others, and my self, to catch more fish then

I or

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I or any other body, that has ever gone a fishing with him, could do, especially *Salmons*; and I have been told lately by one of his most intimate and secret friends, that the box in which he put those worms, was anointed with a drop, or two, or three of the Oil of *Ivy-berries*, made by expression or infusion, and that by the wormes remaining in that box an hour, or a like time, they had incorporated a kind of smel that was irresistibly attractive, enough to force any fish within the smell of them, to bite. This I heard not long since from a friend, but have not tryed it; yet I grant it probable, and refer my Reader to Sir *Francis Bacons* Natural History; where he proves fishes may hear; and I am certain *Gesner* sayes, the *Otter* can smell in the water, and know not but that fish may do so too: 'tis left for a lover of Angling, or any that desires to improve that Art, to try this conclusion.

I shall

I shall also impart two other experiments (but not tryed by my selfe) which I will deliver in the same words that they were given me (by an excellent Angler, and a very friend) in writing; he told me the latter was too good to be told, but in a learned language, lest it should be made common.

Take the stinking oil, drawn out of Polypody of the Oak by a retort, mixt with Turpentine, and Hive-honey, and annoint your bait therewith, and it will doubtlesse draw the fish to it.

The other is this: *Vulnera hederæ grandissime inflectar sudant Balsamum oleo gelato, albicantique persimile, odoris vero longe suavissimi.*

'Tis supremely sweet to any fish; and yet *Asa fetida* may do the like.

But in these things I have no great faith, yet grant it probable, and have had from some chimmical men (namely, from Sir George Ha-
stings

stings and others) an affirmation of them to be very advantageous: but no more of these, especially not in this place.

I might here, before I take my leave of the *Salmon*, tell you, that there is more then one sort of them, as namely, a *Tecon*, and another called in some places a *Samlet*, or by some, a *Skegger*: but these (and others which I forbear to name) may be fish of another kind, and differ, as we know a *Herring* and a *Pilcher* do, which I think are as different, as the Rivers in which they breed, and must by me be left to the disquisitions of men of more leisure, and of greater abilities, then I profess my selfe to have.

And lastly, I am to borrow so much of your promised patience, as to tell you that the *Trout* or *Salmon*, being in season, have at their first taking out of the water (which continues during life) their bodies adorned, the one with such red spots,

spots, and the other with such black or blackish spots, which gives them such an addition of natural beauty, as I (that am yet no enemy to it) think, was never given to any woman by the Artificial Paint or Patches in which they so much pride themselves in this age. And so I shall leave them, and proceed to some Observations of the *Pike*.

CHAP. VIII

Observations of the Luce or Pike with Directions how to fish for him.

Pisc. **T**HE mighty *Luce* or *Pike* is taken to be the Tyrant (as the *Salmon* is the King) of the fresh waters. 'Tis not to be doubted, but that they are bred, some by generation, and some
K other-

otherwayes; as namely, of a weed called *Pickrel weed*, unlesse learned *Gesner* be much mistaken; for hee sayes, this weed and other glutinous matter with the help of the Suns heat in some particular Months, and some Ponds apted for it by nature, do become *Pikes*. But doubtlesse some *Pikes* are bred after this manner, or are brought into some Ponds some other wayes that is past mans finding out, of which we have daily testimonies.

Sir Francis Bacon, in his History of life and Death, observes the Pike to be the longest lived of any fresh water fish, and yet he computes it to be not usually above fortie yeares; and others think it is not above ten years; and yet *Gesner* mentions a *Pike* taken in *Swedeland* in the yeare 1449, with a Ring about his neck, declaring he was put into the Pond by *Frederick* the second, more then two hundred years before he was last taken, as the Inscription of that Ring, being

being (Greek, was interpreted by the then Bishop of *Wormes*. But of this no more, but that it is observed that the old or very great Pikes have in them more of state then goodnesse; the smaller or middle sized Pikes being by the most and choicest palates observed to be the best meat; but contrary, the Eele is observed to be the better for age and bigness.

All Pikes that live long prove chargeable to their keepers, because their life is maintained by the death of so many other fish, even those of his own kind, which has made him by some Writers to bee called the *Tyrant* of the Rivers, or the *Fresh-water-wolf*, by reason of his bold, greedy, devouring disposition; which is so keen, as *Gesner* relates, a man going to a Pond (where it seemes a *Pike* had devoured all the fish) to water his Mule, had a Pike bit his Mule by the lips, to which the Pike hung so fast, that the Mule drew him

out of the water, and by that accident the owner of the Mule got the Pike. And the same *Gesner* observes, that a Maid in *Poland*, had a Pike bit her by the foot as she was washing cloathes in a Pond. And I have heard the like of a woman in *Killingworth* Pond, not far from *Coventry*. But I have been assured by my friend *Mr. Seagrave*, of whom I spake to you formerly, that keeps tame Otters, that he hath knowne a Pike in extreme hunger fight with one of his Otters for a Carp that the Otter had caught, and was bringing out of the water. I have told you who relates these things, and tell you they are persons of credit, and shall conclude this observation, by telling you what a wise man has observed; *It is a hard thing to perswade the belly, because it has no ears.*

But if these relations be disbelieved, it is too evident to be doubted, that a Pike will devoure a fish of his owne kind, that shall be bigger

ger then his belly or throat will receive, and swallow a part of him, and let the other part remain in his mouth till the swallowed part be digested, and then swallow that other part that was in his mouth, and so put it over by degrees, which is not unlike the Ox and some other beasts, taking their meat not out of their mouth into their belly, but first into some place betwixt, and then chaw it, or digest it after, which is called *Chewing the Cud*. And doubtlesse Pikes will bite when they are not hungry, but as some think in very anger, when a tempting bait comes neer to them.

And it is observed, that the Pike will eat venemous things, as (some kind of *Frogs* are) and yet live without being harmed by them: for, as some say, he has in him a natural Balsome or Antidote against all poison: and others, that he never eats the venemous *Frog* till he have first killed her, and then (as *Ducks* are observed

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to do to *Frogs* in Spawning time, at which time some *Frogs* are observed to be venemous) so thoroughly washt her, by tumbling her up and down in the water, that he may devour her without danger. And *Gesner* affirms, that a *Polonian Gentleman* did faithfully assure him, he had seen two young *Geese* at one time in the belly of a *Pike*. And doubtlesse a *Pike* in his height of hunger will bite at, and devour a dog that swims in a Pond, and there has been examples of it, and the like; for as I told you, *The belly has no ears, when hunger comes upon it.*

The *Pike* is also observed to be a solitary, melancholly, and a bold fish: Melancholly, because he alwayes swims or rests himself alone, and never swims in shoales, or with company, as *Roach* and *Dace*, and most other fish do: And bold, because he feares not a shadow, or to see or be seen of any body, as the *trout* and *chub*, and all other fish do.

And

And it is observed by *Gesner*, that the Jaw-bones, and hearts, and gals of Pikes are very medicinable for several Diseases, as to stop blood, to abate Fevers, to cure Agues, to oppose or expel the infection of the Plague, and to be many wayes medicinable and useful for the good of mankind; but he observes, that the biting of a Pike is venemous and hard to be cured.

And it is observed, that the Pike is a fish that breeds but once a year, and that other fish (as namely *Loaches*) do breed oftner, as we are certaine some Pigeons do almost every month: and yet the the Hawk, a bird of prey (as the Pike is of fish) breeds but once in twelve mouths: and you are to note, that his time of breeding, or Spawning is usually about the end of *February*, (or somewhat later, in *March*, as the weather proves colder or warmer) and to note, that his manner of breeding is thus, a He and a She Pike will usually go together out of a

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River into some ditch or creek, and that there the Spawner casts her eggs, and the Melter hovers over her all that time that shee is casting her Spawn, but touches her not.

I might say more of this; but it might be thought curiosity or worse, and shal therefore forbear it, and take up so much of your attention as to tel you, that the best of Pikes are noted to be in *Rivers*, then those in great *Ponds* or *Meres*, and the worst in smal *Ponds*.

But before I proceed further, I am to tell you, that there is a great antipathy betwixt the Pike and some Frogs; and this may appear to the Reader of *Dubravins*, who, in his Book of Fish and Fish ponds, relates what he sayes he saw with his owne eyes, and could not forbear to tell the Reader. Which was :

As he and Bishop Thurzo was walking by a large Pond in Bohemia, they saw a Frog, when the Pike lay very sleepily and quiet by the shore side, leap upon

upon his head, and the Frog having exprest malice or anger by his swolne cheeks and staring eyes, did stretch out his legs and imbraced the Pikes head, and presently reached them to his eyes, tearing with them and his teeth those tender parts; the Pike moved with anguish, moves up and down the water & rubs himself against weeds, and whatever he thought might quit him of his enemy; but all in vain, for the frog did continue to ride triumphantly, & to bite and torment him till the Pikes strength failed, & he shrunk with the Pike to the bottom of the water; then presently the frog appeared again at the top and croaked, and seemed to rejoice like a Conqueror, and then presently retired to her secret hole. The Bishop, that had beheld the battel, called his fisherman to fetch his nets, and by all means to get the Pike, that they might declare what had hapned, and the Pike was drawn forth with both his eyes eaten out, at which when they began to wonder, the Fisherman wished them to forbear, and assu-

red them he was certain that Pikes were often so served.

I told this (which is to be read in the sixth Chapter of the Book of *Dubravius*) unto a friend, who replied, *It was as improbable as to have the mouse scratch out the cats eyes.* But he did not consider that there be fishing Frogs (which the *Dalmatians* call the Water-Divil) of which I might tell you as wonderful a story, but I shall tel you, that 'tis not to be doubted, but that there be some Frogs so fearful of the water-Snake, that when they swim in a place that they fear to meet with him, they get a reed acrossse into their mouthes, which secures him if they two meet by accident; for you are to note, that the Frog swims the faster.

And let me tell you, that as there be *Water and Land frogs*, so there be *Land and Water-snakes*. Concerning which take this Observation, That the *Land-snake* breeds and hatches her eggs; which become young Snakes,

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in some old dung hill, or a like hot place; but the Water-snake, which is not venemous (and as I have been assured by a great observer of such secrets) does breed her young alive, which she does not then forsake, but bides with them, and in case of danger will take them all into her mouth and swim away, and let them out again when she thinks all danger to be past.

But whither am I going? I had almost lost my self by remembering the Discourse of *Dubravius*. I will therefore stop here, and tell you according to my promise how to catch this fish.



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His feeding is usually of *fish* or *frogs*, and sometimes of a weed of his own called *Pickerel weed*. Of which I told you some think some Pikes are bred; for they have observed that where none have been put into Ponds, yet they have there found many; and that there has been plenty of that weed in those Ponds, and that that weed both breeds and feeds them; but whether those Pikes so bred will ever breed by generation as the others do, I shall leave to the disquisitions of men of more curiosity and leasure than I profess my self to have; and shall proceed to tell you that you may fish for a Pike, either with a *ledger* or a *walking bait*; and you are to note, that I call that a Ledger which is fixed, or made to rest in one certain place when you shall be absent; and that I call that a walking bait, which you take with you, and have ever in motion. Concerning which two, I shall give you this direction, That your ledger
bait.

bait is best to be a living bait, whether it be a fish or a frog; and that you may make them live the longer, you may, or indeed you must take this course:

First, for your live bait of fish, a *Roch* or *Dace* is (I think) best and most tempting, and a *Pearch* the longest lived on a hook; and having cut off his fin on his back, which may be done without hurting him, you must take your knife, (which cannot be too sharp) and betwixt the head and the fin on the back, cut or make an incision, or such a scar as you may put the arming wiew of your hook into it, with as little bruising or hurting the fish as Art and diligence will enable you to do, and so carrying your arming wiew along his back, unto, or neer the taile of your fish, betwixt the skin and the body of it, draw out that wiew or arming of your hook at another scar neer to his tail: then tye him about it with thred, but no harder then of necessity you must to prevent

vent hurting the fish; and the better to avoid hurting the fish, some have a kind of probe to open the way, for the more easie entrance and passage of your wyer or arming: but as for these, time and a little experience will teach you better then I can by words; but of this I will for the present say no more, but come next to give you some directions how to bait your hook with a frog.

Ven. But, good Master, did not you say even now, that some *Frogs* were venomous, and is it not dangerous to touch them?

Pisc. Yes, but I will give you some Rules or Cautions concerning them: And first, you are to note, there is two kinds of *Frogs*; that is to say, (if I may so express my self) a *flesh*, and a *fish-frog*: by *flesh frogs*, I mean, *frogs* that breed and live on the land; and of these there be several sorts and colours, some being peckled, some greenish, some blackish, or brown: the green *Frog*, which is a small.

small one, is by *Topsel* taken to be venomous; and so is the *paddock*, or *Frog-paddock*, which usually keeps or breeds on the land, and is very large and bony, and big, especially the She frog of that kind; yet these will sometime come into the water, but it is not often; and the land frogs are some of them observed by him, to breed by laying eggs, and others to breed of the slime and dust of the earth, and that in winter they turne to slime again, and that the next Summer that very slime returns to be a living creature; this is the opinion of *Pliny*: and * *Car-*

dannus undertakes to give reason for the raining of Frogs; but if it were in my power, it should rain none but water Frogs, for those I think are not venomous, especially the right water Frog, which about February or March breeds in ditches by slime and blackish eggs in that slime about which time of breeding the He and She

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The Frog are observed to use divers Summer sauts, and to croke and make a noise, which the land frog, or Padok frog never does. Now of these water frogs, you are to chuse the yellowest that you can get, for that the Pike ever likes best. And thus use your Frog, that he may continue long a-live :

Put your hook into his mouth; which you may easily do from about the middle of *April* till *August*, and then the Frogs mouth grows up, and he continues so for at least six months without eating, but is sustained, none but he whose name is Wonderful, knowes howe. I say, put your hook, I mean the arming wyer through his mouth, and out at his gills, and then with a fine needle and silk sew the upper part of his legg with only one stitch to the arming wire, of your hook; or tye the Frogs leg above the upper joint to the armed wire, and in so doing, use him as though you loved him, that is, harm him as little

as

as you may possibly, that he may live the longer.

And now, having given you this direction for the baiting your ledger hook with a live fish or frog, my next must be to tell you, how your hook thus baited must or may be used; and it is thus: Having fastned your hook to a line, which if it be not fourteen yards long, should not be lesse then twelve; you are to fasten that line to any bough neer to a hole where a Pike is, or is likely to ly, or to have a haunt, and then wind your line on any forked stick, all your line except half a yard of it or rather more, and split that forked stick with such a nick or notch at one end of it, as may keep the line from any more of it ravelling from about the stick, then so much of it as you intended; and chuse your forked stick to be of that bignesse as may keep the fish or frog from pulling the forked stick under the water till the Pike bites, and then the Pike having pulled the line forth

forth of the clift or nick in which it was gently fastned, will have line enough to go to his hold and powch the bait: and if you would have this ledger bait to keep at a fixt place, undisturbed by wind or other accidents which may drive it to the shore side, (for you are to note, that it is likeliest to catch a Pike in the midst of the water) then hang a small Plummer of lead, a stone, or piece of tyle, or a turf in a string, and cast it into the water, with the forked stick, to hang upon the ground to be an Anchor to keep the forked stick from moving out of your intended place till the Pike come. This I take to be a very good way, to use so many ledger baits as you intend to make tryal of.

Or if you bait your hooks thus, with live fish or frogs, and in a windy day, fasten them thus to a bough or bundle of straw, and by the help of that wind can get them to move crosse a *Pond* or *Mere*, you are

are like to stand still on the shoare and see sport, if there be any store of Pikes; or these live baits may make sport, being tyed about the body or wings of a *Goose* or *Duck*, and she chased over a Pond: and the like may be done with turning three or four live baits thus fastned to bladders, or boughs, or bottles of hay, or flags, to swim down a *River*, whilst you walk quietly on the shore alone with them, and are still in expectation of sport. The rest must be taught you by practice, for time wil not allow me to say more of this kind of fishing with live baits.

And for your dead bait for a Pike, for that you may be taught by one dayes going a fishing with me, or any other body that fishes for him, for the baiting your hook with a dead *Gudgion* or a *Roch*, and moving it up and downe the water, is too easie a thing to take up any time to direct you to do it; and yet, because I cut you short in that, I will commute

mute for it, by telling you that that was told mee for a secret : it is this :

Dissolve Gum of Ivy in Oile of Spike, and therewith annoint your dead bait for a Pike, and then cast it into a likely place, and when it has layn a short time at the bottom, draw it towards the top of the water, and so up the streame, and it is more then likely that you have a Pike follow you with more then common eagerness.

And some affirm, that any baite annointed with the marrow of the thigh bone of an Hern is a great temptation to any fish.

These have not been tryed by me, but told me by a friend of note, that pretended to do me a courtesie : but if this direction to catch a Pike thus do you no good; I am certain this direction how to roast him when he is caught, is choicely good, for I have tryed it, and it is somewhat the better for not being common ; but with my direction you must take this

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Caution, that your Pike must not be a smal one.

First open your Pike at the gills, and if need be, cut also a little slit towards his belly; out of these, take his guts, and keep his liver, which you are to shred very small with Time, Sweet Margerome, and a little Winter-Savoury; to these put some pickled Oysters, and some Anchovis, both these last whole (for the Anchovis will melt, and the Oysters should not) to these you must adde also a pound of sweet butter, which you are to mix with the herbs that are shred, and let them all be well salted (if the Pike be more then a yard long, then you may put into these herbs more then a pound, or if he be less, then less butter will suffice :) these being thus mixt, with a blade or two of Mace, must be put into the Pikes belly, and then his belly sowed up, but take not off his scales; then you are to thrust the spit through his mouth out at his taile; and then with four, or five, or six split sticks, or very thin lathes, and

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and a convenient quantity of tape or flitting, these lathes are to be tied round about the Pikes body, from his head to his tail, and the tape tied somewhat thick to prevent his breaking or falling off from the spit; let him be roasted very leisurely, and often basted with Claret wine and Anchovis, and butter mixt together, and also with what moisture falls from him into the pan: when you have roasted him sufficiently, you are to hold under him (when you unwind or cut the tape that ties him) such a dish as you purpose to eat him out of, and let him fall into it with the sawce that is roasted in his belly, and by this means the Pike will be kept unbroken and complete: then to the sawce, which was within, and also in the pan, you are to adde a fit quantity of the best butter, and to squeeze the juice of three or four Oranges: lastly, you may either put into the Pike with the Oysters, two cloves of Garlick, and take it whole out when the Pike is cut off the spit, or to give the sawce a hogoe, let
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the dish (into which you let the Pike fall) be rubbed with it; the using or not using of this Garlick is left to your discretion.

M. B.

This dish of meat is too good for any but Anglers or honest men; and I trust, you will prove both, and therefore I have trusted you with this Secret.

Let me next tell you, that *Gesner* tells us there is no Pikes in *Spain*, and that the largest are in the Lake *Thrasimaine* in *Italy*; and the next, if not equal to them, are the Pikes of *England*, and that in *England*, *Lincolne* shire boasteth to have the biggest. Just so doth *Sussex* boast of four sorts of fish; namely an *Arundel Mullet*, a *Chichester Lobster*, a *Shelsey cockle*, and an *Amerly Trout*.

But I will take up no more of your time with this relation, but proceed to give you some observations of the *Carp*, and how to angle for him.

CHAP

CHAP. IX.

*Observations of the Carp, with
Directions how to fish for
him.*

Pisc. **T**HE *Carp*, the Queen of Rivers, is a stately, a good, and a very subtil fish, a fish that hath not been long in *England*, but is now naturalized. It is said, they were brought hither by one Mr. *Mascal* a Gentleman, that then lived at *Plumsted* in *Sussex*, a County that abounds more with this fish then any in this Nation.

You may remember that I told you, *Gesner* says, there are no *Pikes* in *Spain*; and doubtlesse, there was a time, about a hundred or a few more years ago, when there were no *Carps* in *England*, as may seem to be affirmed by Sir *Richard Baker*, in whose

whose Chronicle you may find these Verses.

*Hops and Turkies, Carps and Beer
Came into England all in a year.*

And doubtless, as of Sea-fish the *Herring* dies soonest out of the water, & of fresh water fish the *Trout*, so (except the *Eele*) the *Carp* indures most hardnesse, and lives longest out of his own proper Element. And therefore the report of the Carps being brought out of a forraigne into this Nation is the more probable.

Carps and Loaches are observed to breed several months in one year, which Pikes and most other fish do not. And this is partly proved by tame and wild *Rabbets*, as also by some *Ducks*, which will lay eggs nine of the twelve months, and yet there be other *Ducks* that lay not longer then about one month. And it is the rather believed, because you shall scarce or never take a *Male Carp*
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without a *Melt*, or a *Female* without a *Roe* or *Spawn*, and for the most part very much, and especially all the Summer season; and it is observed, that they breed more naturally in Ponds then in running waters, if they breed there at all; and that those that live in Rivers are taken by men of the best palates to be much the better meat.

And it is observed, that in some ponds *Carps* will not breed, especially in cold ponds; but where they will breed, they breed innumera-
bly; *Aristotle* and *Pliny* say, six times in a year, if there be no *Pikes* nor *Pearch* to devour their *Spawn*, when it is cast upon grasse, or flags, or weeds, where it lies ten or twelve dayes before it be enlivened.

The *Carp*, if he have water roome and good feed, will grow to a very great bignesse and length: I have heard, to be much above a yard long. 'Tis said (by *Jovius*, who hath writ of fishes)

fishes) that in the Lake *Lurian* in *Italy*, *Carps* have thriven to be more then fifty pound weight, though I never saw one above thirty three inches which was a very great and goodly fish.

Now, as the increase of *Carps* is wonderful for their number ; so there is not a reason found out, I think by any, why they should breed in some ponds, and not in others of the same nature, for soil and all other circumstances ; and as their breeding, so are their decayes also very mysterious ; I have both read it, and been told by a Gentleman of tryed honestie, that he has knowne sixty or more large *Carps* put into several ponds neer to a house, where by reason of the stakes in the ponds, and the Owners constant being neer to them, it was impossible they should be stole away from him , and that when he has after three or four years emptied the pond, and expected an increase from them by breeding

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young

young ones (for that they might do so, he had, as the rule is, put in three Melters for one Spawner) he has, I say, after three or four years found neither a young nor old *Carp* remaining. And the like I have known of one that has almost watched his pond, and at a like distance of time at the fishing of a pond found of seventy or eighty large *Carps* not above five or six: and that he had forborne longer to fish the said pond, but that he saw in a hot day in Summer, a large *Carp* swim neer to the top of the water with a Frog upon his head, and that he upon that occasion caused his pond to be let dry: and I say, of seventy or eighty *Carps*, only found five or six in the said pond, and those very sick and lean, and with every one a Frog sticking so fast on the head of the said *Carps*, that the Frog would not bee got off without extreme force or killing, and the Gentleman that did affirm this to me, told me

me he saw it, and did declare his belief to be, (and I also believe the same) that hee thought the other *Carps* that were so strangely lost, were so killed by Frogs, and then devoured.

But I am false into this Discourse by accident, of which I might say more, but it has proved longer then I intended, and possibly may not to you be considerable; I shall therefore give you three or four more short observations of the *Carp*, and then fall upon some directions how you shall fish for him.

The age of *Carps* is by Sir *Francis Bacon* (in his History of Life and Death) observed to be but ten years; yet others think they live longer. *Gesner* sayes a *Carp* has been knowne to live in the *Palatinate* above a hundred yeers; and it is believed of *Carps*, as it is written of Crocodiles, that they also thrive in bigness during all their lives. But most conclude, that (contrary to the *Pike* or *Luce*) all

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Carps are the better for age and bigness; the tongues of *Carps* are noted to be choice and costly meat, especially to them that buy them; but *Gesner* sayes, *Carps* have no tongue like other fish, but a piece of flesh-like fish in their mouth like to a tongue, and should bee so called a palate: but it is certain it is choicely good, and that the *Carp* is to be reckoned among those leather-mouthed fish, which I told you have their teeth in their throat, and for that reason he is very seldome lost by breaking his hold, if your hook bee once stuck into his chaps.

I told you, that Sir *Francis Bacon* thinks that the *Carp* lives but ten years; but *Janus Dubravius* has writ a Booke of Fish and Fish-ponds, in which he sayes, that *Carps* begin to Spawn at the age of three yeeres, and continues to do so till thirty; he sayes also, that in the time of their breeding, which is in Summer, when
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the Sun hath warmed both the earth and water, and so apted them also for generation, that then three or four Male Carps wil follow a Female, and that then she putting on a seeming coyness, they force her through weeds and flags, where she lets fall her eggs or Spawn, which sticks fast to the weeds, and then they let fall their Melt upon it, and so it becomes in a short time to be a living fish; and as I told you, it is thought the Carp does this several months in the year, and most believe that most fish breed after this manner, except the Ecle: and it has been observed, that when the Spawner has weakned her self by doing that natural office, that two or three Melters have helped her from off the weeds, by bearing her up on both sides, and guarding her into the deep. And you may note, that though this may seeme a curiosity not worth observing, yet others have judged it worth their time and costs, to make *Glasse-bives*, and

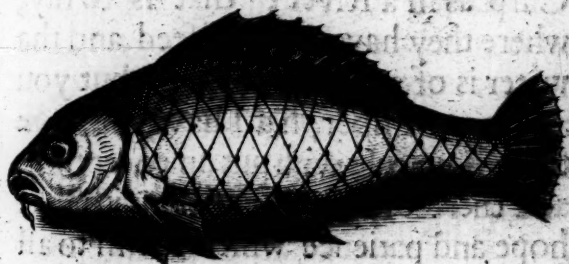
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order them in such a manner as to see how bees have bred and made their *Honey-combs*, and how they have obeyed their King, and governed their Commonwealth. But it is thought that all Carps are not bred by generation, but that some breed other wayes, as some Pikes do.

The Physicians make the *galls* and *stones* in the heads of Carps to be very medicinable; but 'tis not to be doubted but that in *Italy* they make great profit of the Spawn of Carps, by selling it to the Jewes, who make it into red *Caviare*, the Jewes not being by their Law admitted to eat of *Caviare* made of the Sturgion, that being a fish that wants scales, and (as may appear in *Levit. 11.*) by them to be reputed unclean.

Much more might be said out of him, and out of *Aristotle*, which *Dubravius* often quotes in his Discourse of fishes; but it might rather perplex then satisfie you, and therefore I shal rather

rather chuse to direct you how to catch, then spend more time in discoursing either of the nature or the breeding of this *Carp*,



or of any more circumstances concerning him, but yet I shall remember you of what I told you before, that he is a very subtil fish, and hard to be caught.

And my first direction is, that if you will fish for a *Carp*, you must put on a very large measure of *patience*; especially to fish for a *River Carp*: I have knowne a very good Fisher
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angle diligently four or six hours in a day, for three or four dayes together for a *River Carp*, and not have a bite; and you are to note, that in some ponds it is as hard to catch a Carp as in a River; that is to say, where they have store of feed, and the water is of a clayish colour; but you are to remember, that I have told you there is no rule without an exception, and therefore being posselt with that hope and patience which I wish to all Fishers, especially to the *Carp-Angler*, I shall tell you with what bait to fish for him. But first you are to know, that it must be either early or late; and let me tell you, that in hot weather (for he will seldom bite in cold) you cannot be too early or too late at it. And some have been so curious as to say, the 10 of *April* is a fatal day for Carps.

The Carp bites either at wormes or at paste; and of wormes I think the blewish Marsh or Meadow worm is best, but possibly another worm
not

not too big may do as well, and so may a Gentle : And as for pastes, there are almost as many sorts as there are Medicines for the Tooth-ach, but doubtlesse sweet pastes are best ; I mean, pastes made with honey, or with Sugar ; which, that you may the better beguile this crafty fish, should be thrown into the pond or place in which you fish for him some hours before you undertake your tryal of skil by the Angle-Rod : and doubtless, if it be thrown into the water a day or two before, at several times, and in small pellets, you are the likelier when you fish for the Carp, to obtain your desired sport : or in a large pond, to draw them to any certain place, that they may the better, and with more hope be fished for, you are to throw into it, in some certaine place, either grains, or bloud mixt with Cowdung, or with bran ; or any Garbage. as Chickens guts or the like, and then some of your small sweet pellets
with


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with which you purpose to angle; these smal pellets, being a few of them thrown in as you are Angling.

And your paste must be thus made: Take the flesh of a Rabet or Cat cut small, and Bean-flowre, or if that may not be easily got, then other flowre, and then mix these together, and put to them either Sugar, or Honey, which I think better, and then beat these together in a Mortar; or sometimes work them in your hands; (your hands being very clean) and then make it into a ball, or two, or three, as you like best for your use: but you must work or pound it so long in the Mortar, as to make it so tough as to hang upon your hook without washing from it, yet not too hard; or that you may the better keep it on your hook, you may knead with your paste a little, (and not much) white or yellowish wool.

And if you would have this paste keep all the year for any other fish, then mix with it *Virgins-wax*, and *clarified*.

rified honey, and work them together with your hands before the fire; then make these into balls, and it will keep all the year.

And if you fish for a Carp with Gentles, then put upon your hook a small piece of Scarlet about this bigness , it being soaked in, or annointed with *Oyle of Peter*; called by some *Oyl of the Rock*; and if your Gentles be put two or three dayes before into a box or horne annointed with honey, and so put upon your hook, as to preserve them to be living, you are as like to kill this crafty fish this way as any other; but still as you are fishing chaw a little white or brown bread in your mouth, and cast it into the pond about the place where your Flote swims. Other baites there be, but these with diligence, and patient watchfulnesse, will do it as well as any as I have ever practised, or heard of: And yet I shall tell you, that the crumbs of white bread and honey made into a paste, is a good bait.

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bait for a *Carp*, and you know it is more easily made. And having said thus much of the *Carp*, my next discourse shall be of the *Bream*, which shall not prove so tedious, and therefore I desire the continuance of your attention.

But first I will tell you how to make this *Carp* that is so curious to be caught, so curious a dish of meat, as shall make him worth all your labour; and though it is not without some trouble and charges, yet it will recompence both.

Take a *Carp* (alive if possible) scour him, and rub him clean with water and salt, but scale him not, then open him, and put him with his bloud and his liver (which you must save when you open him) into a small pot or kettle; then take sweet *Margerome*, *Time* and *Parsley*, of each half a handful, a sprig of *Rosemary*, and another of *Savoury*, bind them into two or three small bundles, and put them to your *Carp*, with four or five whole *Onions*,
men-

twenty pickled Oysters, and three Anchovies. Then pour upon your Carp as much claret wine as will only cover him; and season your claret well with salt, Cloves and Mace, and the rinds of Oranges and Lemmons, cover your pot and set it on a quick fire, till it be sufficiently boiled; then take out the Carp and lay it with the broth into the dish, and poure upon it a quarter of a pound of fresh butter melted and beaten, with half a dozen spoonful of the broth, the yolks of two or three egges, and some of the herbs shred, garnish your dish with Lemmons, and so serve it up.

D. T.

CHAP. X.

Observations of the Bream, and
Directions to catch him.

Pisc. **T**HE Bream being at a full growth is a large and stately fish; he will

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will breed both in Rivers and ponds; but loves best to live in ponds, and where, if he likes the water and aire, he will grow not only to be very large, but as fat as a Hog: he is by *Gesner* taken to be more pleasant or sweet then wholesome; this fish is long in growing, but breeds exceedingly in a water that pleases him, yea, in many Ponds so fast, as to over-store them, and starve the other fish.

He is very broad with a forked taile, and his scales set in excellent order, he hath large eyes, and a narrow sucking mouth; he hath two sets of teeth, and a lozing like bone, a bone to help his grinding. The Melter is observed to have two large Melts, and the Female two large bags of eggs or spawn.

Gesner reports, that in *Poland* a certain, and a great number of large Breames were put into a Pond, which in the next following winter was frozen up into one intire ice, and not one
of

of these fish to be found, though they were diligently searched for; and yet the next Spring they all appeared again. This *Gesner* affirms, and I quote my Author, because it seems almost as incredible as the *Resurrection* to an *Atheist*. But it may win something in point of believing it, to him that considers the breeding or renovation of the Silk worm, and of many insects. And that is considerable which Sir *Francis Bacon* observes in his History of Life and Death (*fol. 20.*) that there be some herbs that dye and spring every year, and some endure longer.

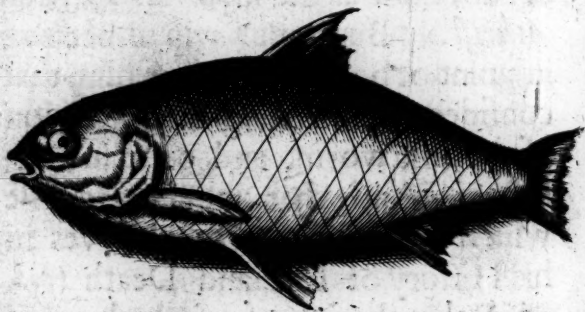
But though some do not, yet the *French* esteem this fish highly, and to that end have this Proverb, *He that hath Breams is able to bid his friend welcom.* And it is noted, that the best part of a Breame is his belly and head.

Some say, that *Breams* and *Roaches* will mix their eggs, and melt together, and so there is in many places

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ces a Bastard breed of *Breams*, that never come to be either large or good but very numerous.

The Baits good to catch this *Bream* are many.




First, paste made of brown bread and honey, gentles, the broode of wasps that be young, and then not unlike Gentles; and should be hardened in an oven, or dried on a tile before the fire: or there is at the root of docks, or flags, or rushes in watry places, a worm not unlike a Magot, at which Tench will bite freely. Or
he

he will bite at a Grashopper with his legs nipt off, in *June* and *July*, or at several flies under water, which may be found on flags that grow neer to the water side. I doubt not but that there be many other baits that are good, but I will turne them all into this most excellent one, either for a *Carp* or *Bream*, in any river or Mere: it was given to me by a most excellent Angler, as good; and hoping you will prove both, I will impart it to you.

1. Let your bait be as big a red worme as you can find, without a knot. Get a pint or quart of them in an evening in garden walks, or chalky Commons after a shovre of rain; and put them with clean mosse well washed and picked, and the water squeezed out of the mosse as dry as you can, into an earthen pot or pipkin set dry, and change the moss fresh every three or four dayes for three weeks or a month together, then your bait will be at the best.

2. Ha-

2. Having prepared your baits, get your tackling ready and fitted after this sort. Take three long Angling Rods, and as many and more silk, or silk and hair lines, and as many large Swan or Goose-quil floats. Then take a piece of Lead made after this manner,  and fasten them to the lower ends of your Lines. Then fasten your link-hook also to the lead, and to the end of your Line, let there be about a foot or ten inches between the lead and the hook, but bee sure the lead be heavy enough to sink the floate or quil under water, and not the quil to bear up the lead. Note, that your link next the hook may be smaller then the rest of your line, if you dare adventure for fear of taking the *Pike* or *Pearch*, who wil assuredly visit your hooks, till they be taken out (as I wil shew you afterwards) before either Carp or Bream will come neer to bite. Note also, that when the worm is well baited, it will crawle
up

up and down, as far as the lead will give leave, which much inticeth the the fish to bite without suspici-
on.

3. Having thus prepared your baites, and fitted your tackling, re-
paire to the River, where you have
seen them to swim in skuls or shoales
in the Summer time in a hot after-
noon, about three or four of the
clock, and watch their going forth
of their holes, and returning (which
you may well discern) for they re-
turn about four of the clock most of
them seeking food at the bottom, yet
one or two will lye on the top of the
water, rolling and tumbling them-
selves, whilst the rest are under
him at the bottom, and so you shall
perceive him to keep Sentinel; then
mark where he playes most, and
stayer longest, (which commonly is
in the broadest and deepest place of
the River) and there, or neer there-
abouts, at a clear bottom, and a
con-

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convenient landing place, take one of your Angles ready fitted as aforesaid, and sound the bottom, about eight or ten foot deep, two yards from the bank is the best. Then consider with your self whether that water will rise or fall by the next morning by reason of any water-mills neere, and according to your discretion take the depth of the place, where you mean after to cast your ground bait, and to fish, to halfe an inch; that the lead lying on or neere the ground-bait, the top of the floate may only appear upright half an inch above the water.

Thus you having found and fitted for the place and depth thereof, then go home and prepare your ground bait, which is next to the fruit of your labors to be regarded.

The Ground Bait.

You shal take a peck, or a peck and a half (according to the greatness of
t he

the stream, and deepness of the water, where you mean to angle) of sweet gross ground barley malt, and boil it in a kettle (one or two warmes is enough) then strain it through a bag into a tub (the liquor whereof hath often done my horse much good;) and when the bag and malt is neere cold, take it down to the water side about eight or nine of the clock in the evening, and not before; cast in two parts of your ground bait, squeezed hard between both your hands, it will sink presently to the bottom, and be sure it may rest in the very place where you mean to angle; if the stream run hard or move a little, cast your malt in handfuls the higher upwards the stream. You may between your hands close the malt so fast in handfuls, that the water will hardly part it with the fall.

Your ground thus baited, and tackling fitted, leave your bag with the rest of your tackling, and ground bait neer the sporting place all night,
and

& in the morning about three or four of the clock visit the water side (but not too neer) for they have a watchman, and are watchful themselves.

Then gently take one of your three Rods, and bait your hook, casting it over your ground bait, and gently and secretly draw it to you till the lead rests about the middle of the ground-bait.

Then take a second Rod and cast in about a yard above, and your third a yard below the first Rod, and stay the Rods in the ground, but go your self so far from the water side, that you perceive nothing but the top of the floats, which you must watch most diligently, then when you have a bite, you shall perceive the top of your floate to sink suddenly into the water; yet neverthelesse be not too hastie to run to your Rods, until you see that line goes clear away; then creep to the water side, and give as much line as possible you can; if it be a Carp or Breame they will go the far-

farther side of the River, then strike gently, and hold your Rod at a bent a little while: for if you both pull, you are sure to lose your Game, for either your line, or hook, or hold will break; and after you have overcome them, they will make noble sport, and are very shy to be landed. The Carp is far stronger and mettlesome then the Bream.

Much more is to be observed in this kind of fish and fishing, but it is far fitter for experience and discourse then paper. Only thus much is necessary for you to know, and to be mindful and careful of, That if the Pike or Pearch do breed in that river they will be sure to bite first, and must first be taken. And for the most part they are very large, and will repaire to your ground-bait, not that they will eat of it, but will feed and sport themselves amongst the young fry, that gather about and hover over the bait.

The way to discern the Pike, and to take him, if you mistrust your Bream hook (for I have taken a Pike a yard long several times at my Bream hooks, and sometimes hee hath had the luck to share my line.)

Take a small Bleak, or Roch, or Gudgion, and bait it, and set it alive among your Rods, two foot deep from the cork, with a little red worm on the point of the hook, then take a few crums of white bread, or some of the Ground-bait, and sprinkle it gently amongst your Rods. If Mr Pike be there, then the little fish will skip out of the water, but the live set bait is sure to be taken.

Thus continue your sport from four in the morning till eight. And if it be a gloomy windie day, they will bite all day long. But that is too long to stand to your Rods at one place, and it will spoil your evening sport that day; which is this,

About four of the clock in the afternoon, repair to your baited place,
and

as soon as you come to the water side, cast in one half of the rest of your ground-bait, and stand off. Then whilst the fish are gathering together (for there they will most certainly come for their supper) you may take a pipe of Tobacco; and then in with your three Rods, as in the morning. You will find excellent sport that evening till eight of the clock; then cast in the residue of your ground bait and next morning by four of the clock visit them again for four hours, which is the best sport of all; and after that let them rest till you and your friends have a mind to more sport.

From *St. James Tide*, until *Bartholomew Tide* is the best, when they have had all the Summers food, they are the fattest.

Observe lastly, That after three or four dayes fishing together, your game will be very shy and wary, and you shall hardly get above a bite or two at a baiting; then your onely

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way is, to desist from your sport about two or three daies; and in the mean time (on the place you late baited, and again intend to bait) you shall take a turfe of green, but short grasse, as big, or bigger then a round trencher; to the top of this turfe, on the green side, you shall with a needle and green thred fasten one by one, as many little red wormes as wil neer cover all the turf. Then take a round board or trencher, make a hole in the middle thereof, and through the turf, placed on the board or trencher, with a string or cord, as long as is fitting, tied to a pole, let it down to the bottom of the water for the fish to feed upon without disturbance about two or three daies; and after that you have drawn it away, you may fall to, and enjoy your former Recreation.

B.A.

CHAP

CHAP. XI.

*Observations of the Tench, and
advice how to Angle for
him.*

Pisc. **T**HE *Tench*, the Physician of fishes, is observed to love Ponds better then Rivers, and pits better then either; yet *Cambden* observes, there is a River in *Dorset-shire* to abound with *Tenches*; but doubtlesse they retire to the most deep and quiet places in it.

This fish hath very large fins, very small and smooth scales, a red circle about his eies, which are big and of a gold colour, and that from either angle of his mouth, there hangs down a little barb; in every *Tenches* head there are two little stones, which forraign Physicians make great use of.

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of, but he is not commended for wholsome meat, though there be very much use made of them for outward applications. *Randelitius* saies, That at his being at *Rome*, he saw a great cure done by applying a Tench to the feet of a very sick man. This hee sayes was done after an unusual manner by certain Jewes. And it is observed that many of those people have many secrets yet unknowne to Christians : secrets that have never yet been written, but have been since the daies of their *Solomon* (who knew the nature of all things, even from the Cedar to the shrub) delivered by tradition from the father to the son, and so from generation to generation without writing, or (unlesse it were casually) without the least communicating them to any other Nation or Tribe ; for to do that, they account a profanation.

Well, this fish, besides his eating, is very useful both dead and alive for the good of mankind. But I will
med-

meddle no more with that, my honest, humble Art teaches no such boldnesse; there are too many foolish medlers in Physick and Divinity that think themselves fit to meddle with hidden secrets, and so bring destruction to their followers. I'll not meddle with them farther, then to wish them wiser; and shall tell you next, (for I hope I may bee so bold) that the Tench is a Physician, to the Pike especially; and that the Pike being either sick or hurt, is cured by the touch of the Tench. And it is observed, that the Tyrant Pike wil not be a Wolf to his Physician, but forbears to devour him, though he be never so hungry.

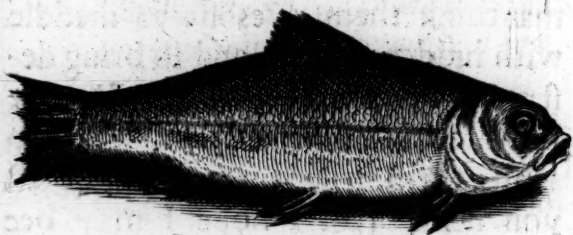
This fish that carries a natural Balsome in him to cure both himself and others, loves yet to feed in very fowle water, and amongst weeds. And yet I am sure hee eats pleasantly, and doubtlesse you will think so too if you taste him. And I shall therefore proceed to give

M. 4.

you

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you some few, and but a few directions how to catch this *Tench*,



of which I have given you these observations.

He will bite at a Paste made of brown bread and honey, or at a Marsh-worm, or a Lob-worm; he inclines very much to any paste with which Tar is mixt; and he will bite also at a smaller worme, with his head nipp'd off, and a Cod-worm put on the hook before the worm; and I doubt not but that he will also in the three hot months (for in the

the nine colder he stirs not much) bite at a Flag-worm, or at a green Gentle, but can positively say no more of the Tench, he being a fish that I have not often Angled for; but I wish my honest Scholer may, and bee ever fortunate when hee fishes.

CHAP. XII

*Observations of the Pearch,
and Directions how to fish for
him.*

Pisc. **T**HE *Pearch* is a very good, and a very bold biting fish; He is one of the fishes of prey, that like the *Pike* and *Trout*, carries his teeth in his mouth, which is very large, and he dare venter to kill and devour several other kinds of fish; he has a hook't or hog back, which is armed
M 5 with

with sharp and stiffe bristles, and all his skin armed or covered over with thick, dry, hard scales, and hath, (which few other fish have) two fins on his back. He is so bold, that he wil invade one of his own kind, which the Pike will hardly do, and you may therefore easily believe him to be a bold biter.

The *Pearch* is of great esteem in *Italy*, saith *Aldrovandus*, and especially the least are there esteemed a daintie dish. And *Gesner* prefers the *Pearch* and *Pike* above the *Trout*, or any fresh water fish; he sayes the *Germanes* have this proverb, *More wholsom then a Pearch of Rhine*; and he sayes the *River Pearch* is so wholsome, that Physicians allow him to be eaten by wounded men, or men in Feavers, or to women in child-bed.

He spawns but once a year, and is by Physicians held very nutritive; yet by many to be hard of digestion: They abound more in the *River*

Poe, and in *England* (sayes *Rondeletius*) then other parts, and have in their brain a stone, which is in forrain parts sold by Apothecaries, being there noted to be very medicinal against the stone in the reins: These be a part of the commendations which some Philosophical brain have bestowed upon the fresh water *Pearch*: yet they commend the Sea *Pearch*, which is known by having but one fin on his back, (of which they say, we *English* see but a few) to be a much better fish.

The *Pearch* growes slowly, yet will grow, as I have been credibly informed, to be almost two foot long; for my Informer told me, such a one was not long since taken by Sir *Abraham Williams*, a Gentleman of worth, and a lover of Angling, that yet lives, and I wish he may: this was a deep bodied fish; and doubtless durst have devoured a *Pike* of half his own length; for I have told you, he is a bold fish, such a one

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3s but for extreme hunger, the *Pike* wil not devour; for to affright the *Pike* the *Pearch* will set up his fins, much like as a *Turkie Cock* wil sometimes set up his tail.

But, my Scholer, the *Pearch* is not only valiant to defend himself, but he is (as I said) a bold biting fish, yet he will not bite at all seasons of the year; he is very abstemious in Winter, yet will bite then in the midst of the day if it be warm; and hee hath been observed by some, not usually to bite till the *Mulberry tree* buds, that is to say, till extreme frosts be past for that Spring; for when the *Mulberry tree* blossomes, many Gardners observe their forward fruit to be past the danger of Frosts, and some have made the like observation of the *Pearches* biting.

But bite the *Pearch* will, and that very boldly; and, as one has wittily observed, if there be twentie or fortie in a hole, they may bee at one stand-

standing all catch'd one after another; they being, as he sayes, like the wicked of the world, not afraid, though their fellowes and companions perish in their sight. And you may observe, that they are not like the solitary Pike, but love to accompany one another, and march together in troops.

And the baits for this bold fish



are not many; I mean, he will bite as well at some, or at any of these three, as at any or all others whatsoever: a *Worm*, a *Minnow*, or a little

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little *Frog* (of which you may find many in hay time,) and of *worms*, the Dunghil worm, called a *Brandling*, I take to be best, being well scowred in Moss or Fennel; or at a worm that lies under a cow-turd with a blewish head. And if you rove for a *Pearch* with a *Minnow*, then it is best to be alive: you sticking your hook through his back fin, or a *Minnow* with the hook in his upper lip, and letting him swim up and down about mid-water, or a little lower, and you still keeping him to about that depth, by a *Cork*, which ought not to be a very light one: and the like way you are to fish for the *Pearch* with a smal *Frog*, your hook being fastned through the skin of his leg, towards the upper part of it: And lastly, I will give you but this advise, that you give the *Pearch* time enough when he bites, for there was scarce ever any *Angler* that has given him too much. And now I think best to rest my self, for I have almost
spent

spent my spirits with talking so long.

Venat. Nay, good Master, one fish more, for you see it rains still, and you know our Angles are like money put to usury; they may thrive, though we sit still and do nothing, but talk and enjoy one another. Come, come the other fish, good Master.

Pis. But Scholer, have you nothing to mix with this discourse, which now grows both tedious and tiresome? shall I have nothing from you that seems to have both a good memorie, and a cheerful Spirit?

Ven. Yes, Master, I will speak you a Copy of Verses that were made by Doctor *Donne*, and made to shew the world that he could make soft and smooth verses when he thought them fit and worth his labor; and I love them the better, because they allude to Rivers, and fish and fishing. They be these:

Come.

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Come live with me, and be my Love,
And we will some new pleasures prove,
Of golden sands, and Christal brooks,
With silken lines, and silver hooks.

There will the River whispering run,
Warm'd by thy eyes more then the Sun;
And there th' inamel'd fish will stay,
Begging themselves they may betray.

When thou wilt swim in that live bath,
Each fish, which every channel hath,
Most amorously to thee will swim,
Gladder to catch thee, then thou him.

If thou, to be so seen, beest loath
By Sun or Moon, thou darknest both;
And if mine eies have leave to see,
I need not their light, having thee.

Let others freeze with Angling reeds,
And cut their legs with shels and weeds,
Or treacherously poor fish beset,
With strangling snares, or windowy net.

Let course bold hands, from slimy nest,
The bedded fish in banks outwrest,

Let:

*Let curious Traitors sleave silk flies,
To'witch poor wandring fishes eyes.*

*For thee, thou needst no such deceit,
For thou thy self art thine own bait;
That fish that is not catch'd thereby,
Is wiser far, alas, then I.*

Pisc. Well remembred, honest Scholer, I thank you for these choice Verses, which I have heard formerly, but had quite forgot, till they were recovered by your happie memorie. Well, being I have now rested my self a little, I will make you some requital, by telling you some observations of the Eele, for it rains still, and because (as you say) our *Angles* are as money put to Use, that thrive when we play.

CHAP.

C H A P. XIII.

Observations of the Eele, and other fish that want scales, and how to fish for them.

Pisc- **I**T is agreed by most men, that the *Eele* is a most dainty fish; the Romans have esteemed her the *Hellena* of their feasts; and some *The Queen of pleasure*. But most men differ about their breeding: some say they breed by generation as other fish do; and others, that they breed (as some wormes do) of mud, as Rats and Mice, and many other living creatures are bred in *Egypt*, by the over-flowing of the River *Nilus*; or out of the putrifaction of the earth, and divers other wayes. Those that deny them to breed by generation as other fish do, ask, if any man ever saw an
Eele

Eele to have a Spawn or Melt: and they are answered, That they may be as certain of their breeding, as if they had seen Spawn; for they say, that they are certain that *Eeles* have all parts fit for generation, like other fish, but so small as not to be easily discerned, by reason of their fatness; but that discerned they may be, and that the Hee and the She *Eele* may be distinguished by their fins. And *Randelitius* sayes, he has seen *Eeles* cling together like *Dew-wormes*.

And others say, that *Eeles* growing old, breed other *Eeles* out of the corruption of their own age, which Sir *Francis Bacon* sayes, exceeds not ten years. And others say, that as *Pearles* are made of glutinous dew-drops, which are condensed by the Suns heat in those Countries, so *Eeles* are bred of a particular dew falling in the Months of *May* or *June* on the banks of some particular Ponds or Rivers (apted by nature for

for that end) which in a few dayes is by the Suns heat turned into *Eeles*, And some of the Ancients have called the *Eels* that are thus bred, *The Off-spring of Fove*. I have seen in the beginning of *July*, in a River not far from *Canterbury*, some parts of it covered over with young *Eeles*, about the thickness of a straw; and these *Eeles* did lie on the top of that water, as thick as motes are said to be in the Sun; and I have heard the like of other Rivers, as namely, in *Severn*, (where they are called *Yelvers*) and in a pond or *Mere* neer unto *Stafford-shire*, where about a set time in Summer, such small *Eeles* abound so much, that many of the poorer sort of people, that inhabit neare to it, take such *Eeles* out of this *Mere*, with sieves or sheets, and make a kind of *Eele-cake* of them, and eat it like as bread. And *Gesner* quotes venerable *Bede* to say, that in *England* there is an Iland called *Ely*, by reason of the innumera-
ble

ble number of *Eeles* that breed in it. But that *Eeles* may be bred as some worms, and some kind of *Bees* and *Wasps* are, either of *dew*, or out of the corruption of the *earth*, seems to be made probable by the *Barnacles* and young *Goslings* bred by the Sun's heat and the rotten planks of an old Ship, and hatched of trees; both which are related for truths by *Dubartas*, and *Lobel*, and our learned *Cambden*, and laborious *Gerrard* in his *Herball*.

It is said by *Randelitius*, that those *Eeles* that are bred in Rivers that relate to, or be neer to the Sea, never return to the fresh waters (as the *Salmon* does alwaies desire to do) when they have once tasted the salt water; and I do the more easily believe this, because I am certain that powdered Bief is a most excellent bait to catch an *Eel*; and though *Sir Francis Bacon* will allow the *Eels* life to be but ten years; yet he in his *History of Life and Death*, mentions
a *Lam-*

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a *Lamprey*, belonging to the *Roman* Emperor to be made tame, and so kept for almost threescore yeares; and that such useful and pleasant observations were made of this *Lamprey*, that *Crassus* the Oratour (who kept her) lamented her death. And we read (in Doctor *Hackwel*) that *Hortensius* was seene to weep at the death of a *Lamprey* that he had kept long, and loved.

It is granted by all, or most men, that *Eeles*, for about six months (that is to say, the six cold months of the year) stir not up and down, neither in the Rivers nor the Pools in which they usually are, but get into the soft earth or mud, and there many of them together bed themselves, and live without feeding upon any thing (as I have told you some *Swallowes* have been observed to do in hollow trees for those six cold months); and this the *Eel* and *Swallow* do, as not being able to endure winter weather; for *Gesner* quotes *Albertus* to say, that

that in the year 1125 (that yeares winter being more cold then usual) *Eeles* did by natures instinct get out of the water into a stack of hay in a Meadow upon dry ground, and there bedded themselves, but yet at last died there. And our *Camden* relates, that in *Lankie-shire*, fishes are dig'd out of the earth with spades, where no water is neere to the place. I shall say little more of the *Eele*, but that, as it is observed, he is impatient of cold; so it hath been observed, that in warme weather an *Eele* has been known to live five dayes out of the water.

And lastly, let me tel you, that some curious searchers into the natures of fish, observethat there be several sorts or kinds of *Eeles*, as the *silver Eele*, and green or *greenish Eel* (with which the River of Thames abounds, and those are called *Gregs*); and a blackish *Eele*, whose head is more flat, and bigger then ordinary *Eeles*; and also an *Eele* whose fins are redish, and but

but feldome taken in this Nation (and yet taken sometimes): These feveral kinds of *Eeles* are (fay some) diversly bred; as namely, out of the corruption of the earth, and by dew, and other wayes (as I have faid to you :) and yet it is affirmed by some for a certain, that the *Silver Eele* breeds by generation, but not by Spawning as other fish do, but that her Brood come alive from her no bigger nor longer then a pin, and I have had too many testimonies of this to doubt the truth of it my selfe, and if I thought it needful I might prove it, but I think it is needlesse.

And this Eele of which I have faid so much to you, may be caught with divers kinds of baits; as namely, with powdered Bief, with a *Lob* or *Garden-worm*, with a *Minnow*; or gut of a *Hen*, *Chicken*, or the guts of any fish, or with almost any thing, for he is a greedy fish; but the Eele may be caught especially with a little

tle, a very little *Lamprey*, which some call a *Pride*, and may in the hot months be found many of them in the River Thames, and in many mud heaps in other Rivers, almost as usually as one finds wormes in a dunghil.

Next note, that the Eele seldom stirs in the day, but then hides himself, and therefore he is usually caught by night, with one of these baits of which I have spoken, & then caught by laying hooks, which you are to fasten to the bank or twigs of a tree; or by throwing a string crosse the stream with many hooks at it, and baited with the aforesaid baits, and a clod, or plummet, or stone, thrown into the River with this line, that so you may in the morning find it neer to some fixt place, and then take it up with a drag-hook or otherwise: but these things are indeed too common to be spoken of, and an hours fishing with any Angler will teach you better, both for these, and ma-

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ny other common things in the practical part of *Angling*, then a weeks discourse. I shall therefore conclude this direction for taking the *Eele*, by telling you, that in a warm day in Summer, I have taken many a good *Eele* by *snigling*, and have been much pleased with that sport.

And because you that are but a young Angler know not what *snigling* is; I will now teach it to you. You remember I told you, that *Eeles* do not usually stir in the day time, for then they hide themselves under some covert, or under boards, or planks about Floud-gates, or Weires, or Mills, or in holes in the River banks; and you observing your time in a warme day, when the water is lowest, may take a strong small hook tied to a strong line, or to a string about a yard long, and then into one of these holes, or betweene any boards about a
Mill,

Mill, or under any great stone or plank, or any place where you think an Eele may hide or shelter her selfe, there with the help of a short stick put in your bait, but leisurely, and as far as you may conveniently; and it is scarce to be doubted, but that if there bee an Eele within the sight of it, the Eele will bite instantly, and as certainly gorge it, and you need not doubt to have him, if you pull him not out of the hole too quickly, but pull him out by degrees, for hee lying folded double in his hole, will, with the help of his taile, break all, unlesse you give him time to be wearied with pulling, and so get him out by degrees; not pulling too hard.

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And to commute for your great patience, I shall next tell you how to make this Eele



a most excellent dish of meat,

First wash him in water and salt, and then pull off his skin below his vent or navel, and not much farther; having done that, take out his guts as clean as you can, but wash him not: then give him three or four scotches with a knife, and then put into his belly and those scotches sweet herbs, an Anchovis, and a little of a Nutmeg grated or cut very small; and your herbs and Anchovis must

must also be cut very smal, and mixt with good butter; having done this, then pull his skin over him, all but his head, which you are to cut off, to the end you may tie his skin about that part where his head grew; and it must be so tied as to keep all his moisture within his skin: and having done this, tie him with tape or pack thred to a spit, and roste him leisurly, and baste him with water and salt till his skin breaks, and then with butter; and having roasted him enough, let what was put into his belly, and what he drips be his sawce.

S. F.

But now let me tell you, that though the Eele thus drest be not only excellent good, but more harmelesse then any other way, yet it is certaine, that Physicians account the Eele dangerous meat; I will advise you therefore, as Solomon saies of Honie, Prov. 25. *Hast thou found it, eat no more then is sufficient, lest thou surfeit for it is not good to eat much honey.*

N. 3

And

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And let me add this, that the uncharitable *Italian* bids us, *Give eeles, and no wine to our enemies.*

And I will beg a little more of your attention to tell you that *Aldrovandus* and divers Physicians commend the Eele very much for medicine, though not for meat. But let me tell you one observation, That the Eele is never out of season, as *Trouts* and most other fish are at set times.

I might here speak of manie other fish whose shape and nature are much like the Eele, and frequent both the *Sea* and fresh Rivers; as namely the *Lamprel*, the *Lamprey* and the *Lamperne*; as also of the mightie *Congre*, taken often in *Severne*, about *Glocester*, and in what high esteeme manie of them are for the curiositie of their taste; but these are not so proper to be talk'd of by me, because they make the Angler no sport, therefore I will let them alone, as the *Jewes* do, to whom they are forbidden by their Law.

And

And Scholer, there is also a Flounder, a Sea-fish, which will wander verie far into fresh Rivers, and there lose himself, and dwell and thrive to a hands breadth, and almost twice so long, a fish without scales, and most excellent meat, and a fish that affords much sport to the Angler, with any small worm, but especially a little blewish worm, gotten out of marsh ground or Meadowes, which should be well scowred: but this though it be most excellent meat, yet it wants scales, and is as I told you therefore an abomination to the Jewes.

But Scholer, there is a fish that they in *Lankie-shire* boast verie much of, called a *Char*, taken there, and I think there only, in a Mere called, *Winander Mere*; a Mere, saies *Cambden*, that is the largest in this Nation, being ten miles in length, and as smooth in the bottom as if it were paved; this fish never exceeds fifteen or sixteen inches in length; and 'tis spotted like a *Trout*, and has scarce a

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bone but on the back ; but this, though I do not know whether it make the Angler sport, yet I would have you take notice of it, because it is a raritie, and of so high esteeme with persons of great note.

Nor would I have you ignorant of a rare fish, called a *Guiniad*, of which I shall tell you what *Cambden*, and others speak. The River *Dee* (which runs by *Chester*,) springs in *Merionnith-shire*, & as it runs toward *Chester*, it runs through *Pemle-Mere*, which is a large water. And it is observed, that though the river *Dee* abounds with *Salmon*, and *Pemle-Mere* with the *Guiniad*, yet there is never any *Salmon* caught in the *Mere*, nor a *Guiniad* in the River. And now my next observation shall be of the *Barbel*.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIV.

Observations of the Barbel,
and Directions how to fish for
him.

Pisc. **T**HE Barbel is so called
(saies *Gesner*) by reason
of his Barb or Wattels
at his mouth, which is under his nose
or chaps. He is one of those leather
mouthed fish that I told you of, that
verie seldom break his hold if he be
once hook'd : but he will often break
both Rod and Line if he proves to be
a big one.

But the Barbel. though he be of a
fine shape, and looks big, yet is not
accounted the best fish to eat, neither
for his wholsomnesse nor his taste.
But the Male is reputed much better
then the Female, whose Spawn is ve-

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ry hurtful, as I will presently declare to you.

They flock together like sheep, and are at worst in *April*, about which time they spawne, but quickly grow to be in season. He is able to live in the strongest swifts of the Water, and in Summer loves the shallowest and sharpest streames; and to lurk under weeds, and loves to feed against a rising ground, and will root and dig in the sand with his nose like a hog, and there nest himself: yet sometimes he retires to deep and swift Bridges or Floud-gates, or Weires, where hee will nest himself amongst piles, or in hollow places, and take such hold of mosse or weeds, that be the water never so swift, it is not able to force him from the place that he contends for. This is his constant custome in Summer, when he and most living creatures sport themselves in the Sun, but at the approach of Winter, then he forsakes the swift streams and shallow waters, and by degrees
retires

retires to those parts of the River that are quiet and deeper; in which places (and I think about that time) he Spawnes; and as I have formerly told you, with the help of the Melter, hides his Spawne or egges in holes, which they both dig in the gravel, and then they mutually labour to cover it with the same sand, to prevent it from being devoured by other fish.

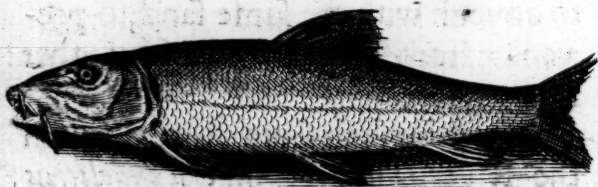
There be such store of this fish in the River *Danubie*, that *Randelitius* sayes, they may in some places of it, and in some months of the yeer, be taken by those that dwell neer to the River, with their hands, eight or ten load at a time; he saies, they begin to be good in *May*, and that they cease to be so in *August*, but it is found to be otherwise in this Nation: but thus far we agree with him, that the Spawn of a *Barbell*, if it be not poison as he saies, yet that it is dangerous meat, and especially in the Month of *May*; and *Gesner* and *Gafins* declare,

inc

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it had an ill effect upon them to the endangering of their lives.

This fish is of a fine cast and handsome shape, small scales, and plac'd after a most exact and curious manner,



and; as I told you, may bee rather said not to be ill, then to be good meat; the *Chub* and he have (I think) both lost a part of their credit by ill cookery, they being reputed the worst or coursest of fresh water fish: but the *Barbel* affords an *Angler* choice sport, being a lustie and a cunning fish;

fish; so lusty and cunning as to endanger the breaking of the Anglers line, by running his head forcibly towards any covert or hole, or bank; and then striking at the line, to break it off with his tail. (as is observed by *Plutark*, in his Book *De industria animalium*) and also so cunning to nibble and suck off your worme close to the hook, and yet avoid the letting the hook come into his mouth.

The *Barbel* is also curious for his baits, that is to say, that they be clean and sweet; that is to say, to have your wormes well scowred, and not kept in sowre and mustie mosse, for he is a curious feeder, for at a well scowred Lob-worm, he will bite as boldly as at any bait, and specially, if the night or two before you fish for him, you shall bait the places where you intend to fish for him with big worms cut into pieces: and note, that none did ever over-bait the place, nor fish too early or

too late for a *Barbel*. And the *Barbels* wil bite also at *Gentles*, which (not being too much scowred, but green) are a choice bait for him; and so is cheese, which is not to be too hard, but kept a day or two in a wet linnen cloth to make it tough; with this you may also bait the water a day or two before you fish for the *Barbell*, and be much the likelier to catch store; and if the cheese were laid in clarified honey a short time before (as namely, an hour or two) you were still the likelier to catch fish; some have directed to cut the cheese into thin pieces, and toast it, and then tye it on the hook with fine silk: and some advise to fish for the *Barbel* with Sheeps tallow and soft cheese beaten or work'd into a Paste, and that it is choicely good in August, and I believe it: but doubtlesse the Lobworm well scowred, and the Gentle not too much scowred, and cheese ordered as I have directed, are baits enough, and I think will serve in a-

ny month ; though I shall commend any Angler that tries conclusions , and is industrious to improve the Art. And now, my honest Scholer, the long showre , and my tedious Discourse are both ended together ; and I shall give you but this Observation ; That when you fish for a *Barbell*, your Rod and Line be both long, and of good strength, for (as I told you) you will find him a heavy and a dogged fish to be dealt withal, yet he seldome or never breaks his hold if he be once stricken. And if you would know more of fishing for the *Umber* or *Barbel*, get into favour with Doctor *Sh.* whose skil is above others ; and of that the poor that dwell about him have a comfortable experience.

And now lets go and see what interest the *Trouts* will pay us for letting our *Angle-rods* lye so long, and so quietly in the water. Come, Scholer, which will you take up ?

Yen. Which you think fit, Master.

Pisc.

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Pisc. Why, you shall take up that; for I am certain by viewing the Line, it has a fish at it. Look you, Scholer: well done. Come now, take up the other too; well, now you may tell my brother *Peter* at night, that you have caught a lease of *Trouts* this day. And now lets move toward our lodging, and drink a draught of *Red-Cowes Milk*, as we go, and give pretty *Maudlin* and her mother a brace of *Trouts* for their supper.

Venat. Master, I like your motion very well, and I think it is now about milking time, and yonder they be at it.

Pisc. God speed you, good woman, I thank you both for our Songs last night; I and my companion had such fortune a fishing this day, that we resolve to give you and *Maudlin* a brace of *Trouts* for supper; and we will now taste a draught of your *Red Cowes milk*.

Milkm. Marry, and that you shall with

with all my heart, and I will be still your debtor when you come next this way; if you will but speak the word, I will make you a good *Sillabub*, of new Verjuice, and then you may sit down in a *hay-cock* and eat it, and *Maudlin* shal sit by and sing you the good old Song of the *Hunting in Chevy Chase*, or some other good Ballad, for she hath good store of them: *Maudlin* hath a notable memory, and she thinks nothing too good for you, because you be such honest men.

Venat. We thank you, and intend once in a month to call upon you again, and give you a little warning, and so good night; good night *Maudlin*. And now, good Master, lets lose no time; but tell me somewhat more of fishing, and if you please, first something of fishing for a *Gudgion*.

Pisc. I will, honest Scholer.

CHAP.

CHAP. XV.

Observations of the Gudgion, the Ruffe and the Bleak, and how to fish for them.

THe *Gudgion* is reputed a fish of excellent taste, and to be very wholsom: he is of a fine shape, of a silver colour, and beautified with black spots both on his body and tail. He breeds two or three times in the year, and alwayes in Summer. He is commended for a fish of excellent nourishment: the *Germanes* call him *Groundling*, by reason of his feeding on the ground; and he there feasts himself in sharp streams, and on the gravel: He and the *Barbell* both feed so, and do not hunt for flies at any time.

time, as most other fishes do : he is an excellent fish to enter a young Angler, being easie to be taken with a small red worm, on or very neer to the ground. He is one of those leather mouthed fish that has his teeth in his throat, and will hardly be lost off from the hook if he be once stricken: they be usually scatter'd up and downe every River in the shallowes, in the heat of Summer; but in *Autumne*, when the weeds begin to grow fowre or rot, and the weather colder, then they gather together, and get into the deeper parts of the water; and are to be fished for there, with your hook alwaies touching the ground, if you fish for him with a fote, or with a cork; but many will fish for the *Gudgion* by hand, with a running line upon the ground, without a cork, as a *Trout* is fished for, and it is an excellent way.

There is also another fish called a *Pope*, and by some a *Rasse*, a fish that

that is not known to be in some Rivers ; it is much like the *Pearch* for his shape, and taken to be better then the *Pearch*, but will not grow to be bigger then a *Gudgion* ; he is an excellent fish, no fish that swims is of a pleasanter taste ; and he is also excellent to enter a young *Angler*, for he is a greedy biter, and they will usually lye abundance of them together in one reserved place where the water is deep, and runs quietly, and an easie *Angler*, if he has found where they lye, may catch fortie or fiftie, or sometimes twice so many at a standing.

You must fish for him with a small red worm, and if you bait the ground with earth it is excellent.

There is also a *Bleak*, or fresh water Sprat, a fish that is ever in motion, and therefore called by some the *River Swallow* ; for just as you shall observe the *Swallow* to be most evenings in Summer ever in motion, making short and quick turnes when he

he flies to catch flies in the aire, by which he lives, so does the *Bleak* at the top of the water. *Ausonius* would have him called *Bleak* from his whitish colour, his back is greenish, his belly very white and shining; and doubtlesse though he have the fortune, which vertue has in poor people, to be neglected, yet the *Bleak* ought to be much valued, though we want *Allamot* salt, and the skill that the *Italians* have to turn them into *Anchovis*. This fish may be caught with a *Pater noster* line, that is, six or eight very small hooks tied along the line one half a foot above the other; I have seen five caught thus at one time, and the bait has been *Gentles*, then which none is better.

Or this fish may be caught with a fine small Artificial flie, which is to be a very sad brown colour, and very small, and the hook answerable. There is no better sport then whipping for *Bleaks* in a boat or on a bank in the swift water in a Summers evening,
with

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with a hazle top about five or six foot long, and a line twice the length of the Rod. I have heard Sir *Henry Wotton* say, that there be many that in *Italy* will catch *Swallows* so, or especially *Martins* (the *Bird-Angler* standing on the top of a Steeple to do it, and with a line twice so long as I have spoke of): And let me tell you, Scholer, that both *Martins* and *Bleaks* be most excellent meat.

And let me tell you, that I have known a Herne that did constantly frequent one place, caught with a hook baited with a big Minnow or a small Gudgeon. The line and hook must be strong, and tied to some loose staff so big as she cannot flye away with it.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVI.

Merriments, Songs and Mu-
sick.

MY purpose was to give you some direction concerning *Roch* and *Dace* and some other inferiour fish, which make the Angler excellent sport, for you know there is more pleasure in hunting the Hare than in eating her; but I will forbear at this time to say any more, because you see yonder comes our brother *Peter* and honest *Coridon*, but I will promise you, that as you and I fish, and walk to morrow towards *London*, if I have now forgotten any thing that I can then remember, I will not keep it from you.

Well

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Well met, Gentlemen, this is lucky that we meet so just together at this very door. Come Hostis, where are you? Is Supper ready? come, first give us drink, and be as quick as you can, for I believe wee are all very hungry. Wel, brother *Peter* and *Coridon*, to you both; come drink, and tell me what luck of fish: we two have caught but ten Trouts, of which my Scholer caught three; look here's eight, and a brace we gave away: we have had a most pleasant day for fishing and talking, and now returned home both weary and hungrie, and now meat and rest will be pleasant.

Pet. And *Coridon* and I have not had an unpleasant day, and yet I have caught but five Trouts; for indeed we went to a good honest Ale-house, and there we plaid at shovel-board half the day; all the time that it rained we were there, and as merry as they that fished, and I am glad we are now with a dry house over
our

our heads; for hark how it rains and blowes. Come Hostis, give us more Ale, and our supper with what haste you may, and when we have sup'd, lets have your Song, *Piscator*, and the Ketch that your Scholer promised us, or else *Coridon* will be dogged.

Pisc. Nay, I will not bee worse then my word, you shall not want my Song, and I hope I shall be perfect in it.

Ven. And I hope the like for my Ketch, which I have ready too, and therefore lets go merrily to Supper, and then have a gentle touch at singing and drinking; but the last with moderation.

Cor. Come, now for your Song, for we have fed heartily. Come Hostis, give us a little more drink, and lay a few more sticks on the fire, and now sing when you will.

Pisc. Well then, here's to you *Coridon*; and now for my Song.

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Oh the gallant Fishers life,
It is the best of any,
'Tis full of pleasure, void of strife,
And 'tis belov'd of many:

Other joyes
are but toies,
only this
lawful is,
for our skil
breeds no ill,
but content and pleasure.

In a morning up we rise
Ere Aurora's peeping,
Drink a cup to wash our eyes,
Leave the sluggard sleeping :

Then we go
To and fro,
with our knacks
at our backs,

to such streams
as the Thames
if we have the leisure.

When we please to walk abroad
For our recreation,
In the fields is our abode,
Full of delectation :

Where in a Brook
with a hook,
or a Lake,
fish we take,
there we sit
for a bit,
till we fish intangle.

We have Gentles in a horn,
We have paste and worms too,
We can watch both night and morn,
Suffer rain and storms too :

None do here
use to swear,

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oathes do fray
fish away,
we sit still,
watch our quill;
Fishers must not rangle.

If the Suns excessive heat
Make our bodies swelter,
To an Osier hedge we get
For a friendly shelter,
Where in a dike
Pearch or Pike,
Roch or Dace
we do chase,
Bleak or Gudgion
without grudging,
we are still contented.

Or we sometimes passe an hour
Under a green willow,

That

That defends us from a shower,
Making earth our pillow,
there we may
think and pray
before death
stops our breath;
other joyes
are but toies
and to be lamented.

Venat. Well sung, Master; this
dayes fortune and pleasure, and
this nights company and Song, do
all make me more and more in love
with *Angling*. Gentlemen, my Master
left me alone for an houre this day,
and I verily believe he retired him-
self from talking with me, that he
might be so perfect in this Song; was
it not Master?

Pisc. Yes indeed, for it is many
yeers since I learn'd it, and having
forgotten a part of it, I was forced
to patch it up by the help of my own

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invention, who am not excellent at Poetry, as my part of the Song may testifie : But of that I will say no more, lest you should think I mean by discommending it, to beg your commendations of it- And therefore without replications, lets hear your Ketch, Scholer, which I hope will be a good one, for you are both Musical, and have a good fancy to boot.

Venat. Marry, and that you shal, and as freely as I would have my honest Master tel me some more secrets of fish and fishing as we walk and fish towards *London* to morrow. But Master, first let me tell you, that that very hour which you were absent from me, I sat down under a Willow tree by the water side, and considered what you had told me of the Owner of that pleasant Meadow in which you then left me, that he had a plentiful estate, and not a heart to think so, that he had at this time many Law-sutes depending, and that

that they both damp'd his mirth, and took up so much of his time and thoughts, that he himselfe had not leisure to take the sweet content that I, who pretended no title, took in his fields, for I could there sit quietly, and looking on the water, see fishes leaping at Flies of several shapes and colours; looking on the Hills, could behold them spotted with Woods and Groves; looking downe the Meadows, could see here a Boy gathering *Lillies* and *Lady-smocks*, and there a Girle cropping *Culverkeyes* and *Cowslips*, all to make Garlands futable to this pleasant Month of *May*; these and many other Field-flowers so perfumed the aire, that I thought this Meadow like the field in *Sicily* (of which *Diodorus* speaks) where the perfumes arising from the place, makes all dogs that hunt in it, to fall off, and to lose their hottest sent. I say, as I thus sate joying in mine owne happy condition, and pitying that rich mans, that

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ought this, and many other pleasant Groves and Meadows about me, I did thankfully remember what my Saviour said, that *the meek possess the earth*; for indeed they are free from those high, those restless thoughts and contentions which corrode the sweets of life. For they, and they only, can say as the Poet has happily exprest it,

*Hail blest estate of poverty !
Happy enjoyment of such minds,
As rich in low contentedness,
Can, like the reeds in roughest winds,
By yeilding make that blow but smal
At which proud Oaks and Cedars fall.*

There came also into my mind at that time, certain Verses in praise of a mean estate, and an humble mind, they were written by *Phineas Fletcher*; an excellent Angler, who in his *Purple Island*, has so excellently imitated our *Spencers Fairy Queen*.

No

*No empty hopes, no Courtly fears him fright,
No begging wants, his middle fortune bite,
But sweet content exiles both misery and spite.*

*His certain life, that never can deceive him,
Is full of thousand sweets, and rich content :
The smooth leav'd Beeches in the field receive him,
With coolest shade, till noon tides heat be spent :*

*His life is neither tost in boisterous Seas,
Or the vexatious world, or lost in slothful ease,
Pleas'd & full blest he lives, when he his God can please.*

*His bed more safe then soft yeilds quiet sleeps,
While by his side his faithful Spouse has place,
His little son into his bosom creeps,
The lively picture of his fathers face.*

*His humble house, or poor state ne're torment him,
Lest he could like, if less his God had lent him,
And when he dies, green turfs do for a tomb content him.*

Gentlemen, these were a part of the thoughts that then possess me, and I there made a conversion of a piece of an old Ketch, and added more to it, fitting them to be sung by us Anglers: Come, Master, you can sing well, you must sing a part of it as it is in this paper.

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The ANGLERS Song.

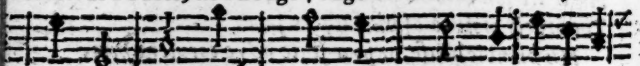
Two Voices, Treble and Bass. CANTU S. Set by Mr. Henry Lawes.



An's life is but vain; for 'tis subject to pain, and sorrow,



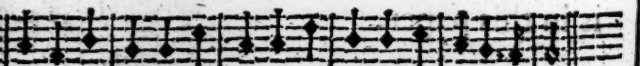
and short as a bubble; 'tis a hodge podge of business, and money, and



care, and care, and money, and trouble. But we'll take no care when the



weather proves fair, nor will we vex now though it rain; we'll banish



sorrow, and sing till to morrow, and Angle, and Angle again.



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The ANGLERS Song.

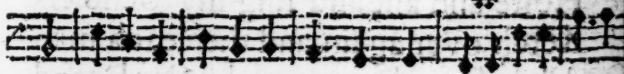
BASSUS.

Set by Mr. Henry Lawes

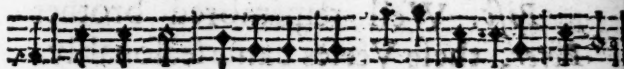
Two Voices.



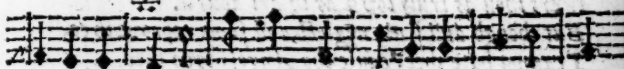
An's life is but vain; for 'tis subject to pain and sorrow, and



as a bubble, 'tis a hodge-podge of bullocks, and money, and care,



care, and money, and trouble. But we'll take no care when the wea-



proves fair, nor will we vex now though it rain; we'll banish all



row, and Ang'll be merrily, and Ang'le again.

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Pet. I marry Sir, this is Musick indeed, this has cheered my heart, and made me to remember six Verses in praise of Musick, which I will speak to you instantly.

*Musick, miraculous Rhetorick, that speak'st sense
Without a tongue, excelling eloquence;
With what ease might thy errors be excus'd
Wert thou as truly lov'd as th'art abus'd.
But though dull souls neglect, and some reprove thee,
I cannot hate thee, 'cause the Angels love thee.*

Pisc. Well remembred brother *Peter*, these Verses came seasonably. Come, we will all join together, mine Hoste and all, and sing my Scholers Ketch over again, and then each man drink the rother cup and to bed, and thank God we have a dry house over our heads.

Pisc. Well now, good night to every body.

Pet. And so say I.

Ven And so say I.

Cor. Good night to you all, and I thank you.

Pisc. Good morrow brother *Peter*,

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ter, and the like to you honest *Coridon*: come, my Hostis sayes there is seven shillings to pay, lets each man drink a pot for his mornings draught, and lay down his two shillings, that so my Hostis may not have occasion to repent her self of being so diligent, and using us so kindly.

Pet. The motion is liked by every body, and so Hostis, here's your money, we Anglers are all beholding to you, it will not be long ere Ile see you again. And now brother *Piscator*, I wish you and my brother your Scholar a faire day, and good fortune. Come *Coridon*, this is our way.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVI.

*Of Roch and Dace, and how to
fish for them. And of Ca-
dis.*

Venat. **G**ood Master, as we go
now towards *London*,
be still so courteous
as to give me more instructions, for
I have several boxes in my memory
in which I will keep them all very
safe; there shall not one of them be
lost.

Pisc. Well Scholer, that I will,
and I will hide nothing from you
that I can remember, and may help
you forward towards a perfection in
this Art; and because we have so
much time, and I have said so little
of

of *Roch* and *Dace*, I will give you some directions concerning them.

Some say the *Roch* is so called, from *Rutilus*, which they say, signifies red fins: He is a fish of no great reputation for his dainty taste, and his spawn is accounted much better then any other part of him. And you may take notice, that as the *Carp* is accounted the *Water-Fox* for his cunning, so the *Roch* is accounted the *Water-sheep* for his simplicity or foolishness. It is noted that the *Roch* and *Dace* recover strength, and grow in season in a fortnight after Spawning; the *Barbel* and *Chub* in a month, the *Trout* in four months, and the *Salmon* in the like time, if he gets into the Sea, and after into fresh water.

Rockes be accounted much better in the river then in a pond, though ponds usually breed the biggest. But there is a kind of bastard small *Roch* that breeds in Ponds with a very forked tail, & of a very small size, which some say is bred by the *Bream* and right

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Roch, and some Ponds are stored with these beyond belief; and knowing men call them *Ruds*; they differ from the true *Roch* as much as a Herring from a Pilchard; and these bastard breed of *Roch* are now scattered in many Rivers, but I think not in *Thames*, which I believe affords the largest & fattest in this Nation, especially below *London* Bridg; the *Roch* is a leather mouthed fish, and has a kind of saw-like teeth in his throat. And lastly let me tell you, the *Roch* makes an Angler excellent sport, especially the great *Roches* about *London*, where I think there be the best *Roch-Anglers*; and the best *Trout-Anglers* in *Derby-shire*.

Next let me tell you, you shall fish for this *Roch* in Winter with Paste or Gentles; in *April*, with worms or Cadis; in the very hot months with little white snails, or with flies under water, for he seldom takes them at the top, though the Dace will; and in *August* you shall fish for him with

with a paste made of the crumbs of bread, and much after this manner you shall fish for the *Dace* or *Dare*, for they be much of a kind, in matter of feeding, cunning, goodnesse and size. And therefore take this general direction for some other baites which may concerne you to take notice of. They will bite almost at any flye, but especially at *Ant-flies*; concerning which, take this direction, for it is very good.

Take the blackish *Ant-flye* out of the *Mole-hil* or *Ant-hil*, in which place you shall find them in the Month of *June*, or if that be too early in the yeare, then doubtlesse you may find them in *July*, *August*, and most of *September*, gather them alive with both their wings, and then put them into a glasse, that will hold a quart or a pottle; but first, put into the glasse a handful or more of the moist earth out of which you gather them, and as much of the roots of the grasse of the said hillock,
and

and then put in the flies gently, that they lose not their wings, and so many as are put into the glasse without bruising, will live there a month or more, and be alwayes in a readinesse for you to fish with; but if you would have them keep longer, then get any great earthen pot, or barrel of three or four gallons (which is better) then wash your barrel with water and honey; and having put into it a quantity of earth and grasse roots, then put in your flies, and cover it, and they will live a quarter of a year; these in any stream and cleare water, are a deadly bait for *Roach* or *Dace*, or for a *Chub*, and your rule is, to fish not less then a handful from the bottom.

I shall next tell you a winter bait for a *Roach*, a *Dace*, or *Chub*, and it is choicely good. About *All-hollantide* (and so till Frost comes) when you see men ploughing up heath-ground, or sandy ground, or greenswards, then follow the plough,

plough, and you shall find a white worme as big as two Magots, and it hath a red head, (you may observe in what ground most are, for there the Crowes will be very watchful, and follow the Plough very close) it is all soft, and full of whitish guts; a worme that is in *Norfolk*, and some other Countries called a *Grub*, and is bred of the spawne or eggs of a Beetle, which she leaves in holes that shee digs in the ground under Cow or Horse-dung, and there rests all Winter, and in *March* or *April* comes to be first a red, and then a black Beetle: gather a thousand or two of these, and put them with a peck or two of their owne earth into some tub or firkin, and cover and keep them so warme, that the frost or cold aire, or winds kill them not, and you may keep them all winter, and kill fish with them at any time; and if you put some of them into a little earth and honey a day before you use them, you will find them
an

an excellent baite for *Bream* or *Carp*.

And after this manner you may also keep Gentles all winter, which is a good baite then, and much the better for being lively and tuffe: or you may breed and keep Gentles thus. Take a piece of Beasts liver, and with a cross stick, hang it in some corner over a pot or barrel half full of dry clay, and as the Gentles grow big; they will fall into the barrel and scowre themselves, and be alwaies ready for use whensoever you incline to fish; and these gentles may bee thus made til after *Michaelmas*. But if you desire to keep Gentles to fish with all the year, then get a dead *Cat* or a *Kite* and let it be fly-blown, and when the Gentles begin to be alive and to stir, then bury it and them in moist earth, but as free from frost as you can, and these you may dig up at any time when you intend to use them; these will last till *March*, and about that time turn to be flies.

But

But if you be nice to fowle your fingers (which good Anglers seldom are) then take this bait: Get a handful of well made Mault, and put it into a dish of water, and then wash and rub it betwixt your hands till you make it cleane, and as free from husks as you can; then put that water from it, and put a small quantity of fresh water to it, and set it in something that is fit for that purpose, over the fire, where it is not to boil apace, but leisurely, and very softly, until it become somewhat soft, which you may try by feeling it betwixt your finger and thumb; and when it is soft, then put your water from it, and then take a sharp knife; and turning the sprout end of the corne upward, with the point of your knife take the back part of the husk off from it, & yet leaving a kind of husk on the corn, or else it is marr'd; and then cut off that sprouted end (I mean a little of it) that the white may appear, and so pull off the
husk

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husk on the cloven side (as I directed you) and then cutting off a very little of the other end, that so your hook may enter, and if your hook be small and good, you will find this to be a very choice bait either for Winter or Summer; you sometimes casting a little of it into the place where your fote swims.

And to take the *Roch* and *Dace*, a good baite is the young broode of Wasps or Bees, if you dip their heads in blood; especial good, for *Bream*, if they bee baked or hardned in their husks in an Oven, after the bread is taken out of it, or on a fire-shovel; and so also is the thick blood of *Sheep*, being halfe dryed on a trencher, that you may cut it into such pieces as may best fit the size of your hook, and a little salt keeps it from growing black, and makes it not the worse, but better; this is taken to be a choice bait, if rightly ordered.

There be several Oiles of a strong
smell

smell that I have been told of, and to be excellent to tempt fish to bite, of which I could say much, but I remember I once carried a small bottle from Sir *George Hastings* to Sir *Henry Wotton*, (they were both chymical men) as a great present; but upon enquiry, I found it did not answer the expectation of Sir *Henry*, which with the help of other circumstances, makes me have little belief in such things as many men talk of; not but that I think fishes both smell and hear (as I have expressed in my former discourse) but there is a mysterious knack, which (though it be much easier then the Philosophers Stone, yet) is not attainable by common capacities, or else lies locked up in the braine or brest of some chymical men, that, like the *Rosicrutions*, yet will not reveal it. But I stepped by chance into this discourse of Oiles, and fishes smelling; and though there might be more said, both of it, and of baits for

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for *Roach* and *Dace*, and other flote fish, yet I will forbear it at this time, and tell you in the next place how you are to prepare your Tackling: concerning which I will for sport sake give you an old Rhime out of an old Fish-book, which will bee a part of what you are to provide.

*My Rod, and my line, my flote and my lead,
My hook, and my plummet, my whetstone and knife,
My Basket, my baits both living and dead,
My net, and my meat, for that is the chief;
Then I must have thred, and hairs great and small,
With mine Angling purse, and say you have all.*

But you must have all these tack-
ling, and twice so many more, with

I have heard, that
the tackling hath
been prized at fif-
ty pound in the
Inventory of an
Angler.

which if you mean to
be a Fisher, you must
store your selfe; and
to that purpose I will
go with you either to
Charles Brandons (neer to the *Swan* in
Golding lane); or to *Mr. Fletchers*
in the Court which did once belong
to

to Dr. *Nowel*, the Dean of *Pauls*, that I told you was a good man, and a good Fisher; it is hard by the west end of Saint *Pauls* Church. But if you will buy choice hooks, I wil one day walk with you to *Charles Kerbyes* in *Harp Alley* in *Shooe-lane*, who is the most exact and best Hook-maker that the Nation affords. They be all three honest men, and wil fit an Angler with what tackling he want.

Venat. Then, good Master, let it be at *Charles Brandons*, for he is neerest to my dwelling, and I pray lets meet there the ninth of *May* next about two of the Clock, and I'll want nothing that a fisher should be furnished with.

Pisc. Well, and Ile not faile you God willing, at the time and place appointed.

Venat. I thank you, good Master, and I will not fail you: and good Master, tell mee what baits more you remember, for it will not now be long ere we shal be at *Ton-en-*

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ham high-Cross, and when we come thither, I wil make you some requital of your paines, by repeating as choice a copy of Verses, as any we have heard since we met together; and that is a proud word, for we have heard very good ones.

Pisc. Well, Scholer, and I shall be right glad to hear them; and I will tell you whatsoever comes in my mind, that I think may be worth your hearing. You may make another choice baite thus, Take a handfull or two of the best and biggest *Wheat* you can get, boile it in a little milk like as *Frumitie* is boiled, boile it so till it be soft, and then fry it verry leisurely with honey, and a little beaten *Saffron* dissolved in milk, and you will find this a choice bait, and good I think for any fish, especially for *Roch*, *Dace*, *Chub* or *Greyling*; I know not but that it may be as good for a *River Carp*, and especially if the ground be a little baited with it.

You are also to know, that there
be

be divers kinds of *Cadis*, or *Cafe-worms*, that are to be found in this Nation in several distinct Counties, and in several little Brooks that relate to bigger Rivers, as namely, one *Cadis* called a *Piper*, whose husk or case is a piece of reed about an inch long or longer, and as big about as the compass of a two pence; these worms being kept three or four days in a woollen bag with sand at the bottome of it, and the bag wet once a day, will in three or four dayes turne to be yellow; and these be a choice bait for the *Chub* or *Chavender*, or indeed for any great fish, for it is a large bait.

There is also a lesser *Cadis-worm*, called a *Cock-spur*, being in fashion like the spur of a Cock, sharp at one end, and the case or house in which this dwels is made of small husks and gravel, and slime, most curiously made of these, even so as to be wondered at, but not made by man (no more then the nest of a bird is :) this is a choice bait for any flete fish, it

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is much less then the *Piper Cadis*, and to be so ordered; and these may be so preserved ten, fifteen, or twenty dayes.

There is also another *Cadis* called by some a *Straw worm*, and by some a *Ruffe-coat*, whose house or case is made of little pieces of bents and rushes, ~~and~~ strawes, and water weeds, and I know not what, which are so knit together with condensed slime, that they stick about her husk or case, not unlike the bristles of a *Hedg-hog*; these three *Cadis* are commonly taken in the beginning of Summer, and are good indeed to take any kind of fish with flote or otherwise. I might tell you of many more, which as these do early, so those have their time of turning to bee flies later in Summer; but I might lose my selfe, and tire you by such a discourse, I shall therefore but remember you, that to know these, and their several kind, and to what flies every particular *Cadis* turnes, and then how to use them,

them, first as they be *Caddis*, and then as they be flies, is an Art, and an Art that every one that professes Angling is not capable of.

But let me tell you, I have been much pleased to walk quietly by a Brook with a little stick in my hand, with which I might easily take these, and consider the curious of their composure; and if you shall ever like to do so, then note, that your stick must be cleft, or have a nick at one end of it, by which means you may with ease take many of them out of the water, before you have any occasions to use them. These, my honest Scholer, are some observations told to you as they now come suddenly into my memorie, of which you may make some use: but for the practical part, it is that that makes an Angler: it is diligence, and observation, and practice, and an ambition to be the best in the Art that must do it. I will tell you Scholer, I once heard one say, *I envy not*

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him that eats better meat then I do, nor him that is richer, or that weares better cloathes then I do. I envy no body but him, and him only that catches more fish then I do. And such a man is like to prove an Angler.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVIII.

*Of the Minnow or Penk, of the
Loach, and of the Bull-head,
or Millers-thumb.*

Pisc. **T**Here be also three or
four other little fish that
I had almost forgot, that
are all without scales, and may for
excellency of meat be compared to
any fish of greatest value, and largest
size. They be usually full of eggs or
spawne all the months of Summer;
for they breed often, as 'tis observed
mice and many of the smaller four
footed Creatures of the earth do; & as
those, so these come quickly to their
full growth and perfection. And it is
needful that they breed both often &

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numerously; for they be (besides other accidents of ruine) both a prey, and baits for other fish. And first, I shall tell you of the *Minnow* or *Penk*.

The *Minnow* hath, when hee is in perfect season, and not sick (which is only presently after spawning) a kind of dappled or waved colour, like to a *Panther*, on his sides, inclining to a greenish and skie colour; his belly being milk white, and his back almost black or blackish. He is a sharp biter at a small worm, and in hot weather makes excellent sport for young Anglers, or boyes, or women that love that Recreation, and in the spring they make of them excellent *Minnow Tansies*; for being washed well in salt, and their heads and tails cut off, and their guts taken out, they prove excellent for that use, being fried with yolks of eggs, the flowers of *Cowslips*, and of *Primroses* and *Tansie*.

The *Loach* is, as I told you, a most daintie

daintie fish, he breeds and feeds in little and clear swift brooks or rills; and lives there upon the gravel, and in the sharpest streams; He growes not to be above a finger long, and no thicker then is sutable to that length.

This Leach,



is of the shape of the Eele: he has a beard or wattels like a Barbel. Hee has two fins at his sides, four at his belly and one at his taile; he is dappled with many black or brown spots; his mouth is Barbel like under nose. This fish is usually full of eggs or

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spawne, and is by *Gesner* and other learned Physicians commended for great nourishment; and to be very grateful both to the palate and stomach of sick persons; and is to be fished for with a very small worme at the bottom, for he very seldome or never rises above the gravel; on which I told you, he usually gets his living.

The *Millers-thumb* or *Bull-head* is a fish of no pleasing shape. He is by *Gesner* compared to the *Sea toad-fish*, for his similitude and shape. It has a head big and flat, much greater then sutable to his body; a mouth very wide and usually gaping. He is without teeth, but his lips are very ruffe much like to a file. He hath two fins neer to his gills, which be roundish or crested, two fins also under the belly, two on the back, one below the vent, and the fin of his tail is round. Nature hath painted the body of this fish with *whitish, blackish, brownish* spots. They be usually full
of

of eggs or spawn all the Summer (I mean the Females) and those eggesswell their vents almost into the form of a dug. They begin to spawne about *April*, and (as I told you) spawn several months in the Summer; and in the winter the Minnow, and Loach and Bul-head dwell in the mud as the Eele doth, or we know not where; no more then we know where the Cuc-koe and Swallow, and other Summer birds (which first appear to us in *April*) spend their cold winter, melancholy months. This *Bulhead*



does

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does usually dwell and hide himself in holes or amongst stones in cleare water; and in very hot days, will lye a very long time and very still, and sun himself, and will be easie to be seen upon any flat stone, or on any gravel, at which time he will suffer an Angler to put a hook baited with a small worm very near unto his very mouth, and he never refuses to bite, nor indeed to be caught with the worst of Anglers. *Matthiolus* commends him much more for his taste and nourishment, then for his shape or beautie.

There is also a little fish called a *Sticklebag*; a fish without scales, but hath his body fenc'd with several prickles. I know not where he dwells in winter, nor what he is good for in Summer, but only to make sport for boyes and women Anglers, and to feed other fish that be fish of prey, as Trouts in particular, who will bite at him as at a Penk, and better, if your
hook.

hook be rightly baited with him, for he may be so baited as his tail turning like the saile of a wind-mill will make him turne more quick then any *Penk* or *Minnow* can. For note, that the nimble turning of that or the *Minnow* is the perfection of *Minnow fishing*. To which end, if you put your hook into his mouth, and out at his tail, and then having first tied him with white thred a little above his taile, and placed him after such a manner on your hook as he is like to turne, then sow up his mouth to your line, and he is like to turn quick, and tempt any *Trout*: but if hee do not turn quick, then turne his tail a little more or lesse towards the inner part, or towards the side of the hook, or put the *Minnow* or *Stickelbag* a little more crooked or more strait on your hook, until it will turne both true and fast, and then doubt not but to tempt any great *Trout* that lies in a swift stream. And the *Loach* that I told you of will do the like; no bait is more tempt-

tempting, provided the *Loach* be not too big.

And now *Scholer*, with the help of this fine morning, and your patient attention, I have said all that my present memory will afford me concerning most of the several fish that are usually fished for in fresh waters.

Venat. But Master, you have by your former civility made me hope that you will make good your promise, and say something of the several Rivers that be of most note in this Nation; and also of *Fish-ponds*, and the ordering of them; and do it I pray good Master, for I love any Discourse of Rivers, and Fish and Fishing, the time spent in such discourse passes away very pleasantly.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIX.

Of several Rivers, and some observations of fish.

Pisc. **W**ELL Scholer, since the wayes and weather do both favor us, and that we yet see not *Totenham Crosse*, you shall see my willingnesse to satisfie your desire. And first, for the Rivers of this Nation, there be (as you may note out of Doctor *Heylins* Geography) in number 325. but those of chiefest note he reckons and describes as followeth.

The chief is *Thamisis*, compounded of two Rivers, *Thame* and *Isis*; whereof the former rising somewhat beyond,

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beyond *Thame* in *Buckinghamshire*, and the latter in *Cyrencester* in *Glocester shire* meet together about *Dorchester* in *Oxfordshire*, the issue of which happy conjunction is the *Tham:sis* or *Thames*. Hence it flyeth betwixt *Berks*, *Buckinghamshire*, *Middlesex*, *Surry*, *Kent* and *Essex*, and so weddeth himself to the *Kentish Medway* in the very jawes of the *Ocean*; this glorious River feeleth the violence of the *Sea* more then any River in *Europe*, ebbing and flowing twice a day, more then sixtie miles, about whose banks are so many fair Townes and Princely Palaces that a *Germane Poet* thus truly spake:

Tot Campos, &c.

*We saw so many woods, and Princely bowers,
Sweet Fields, brave Palaces, and stately Towers,
So many Gardens drest with curious care,
That Thames with royal Tiber may compare.*

2. The second River of note, is *Sabrina* or *Severn*: it hath its beginning

ning in *Plinlimmon Hill*, in *Montgomery-shire*, and his end seven miles from *Bristol*, washing in the meane space the wals of *Shrewsbury*, *Worcester* and *Glocester*.

3. *Trent*, so called for thirtie kind of fishes that are found in it, or that it receiveth thirtie lesser Rivers, who having his fountaine in *Staffordshire*, and gliding through the Countries of *Nottingham*, *Lincoln*, *Liecester* and *York*, augmenteth the turbulent current of *Humber*, the most violent stream of all the Isle. This *Humber* is not, to say truth, a distinct River, having a spring head of his own, but rather the mouth or *Estuorium* of divers Rivers here confluent and meeting together; namely, your *Dorwent*, and especially of *Ouse* and *Trent*; and (as the *Danew*, having received into its channel, the River *Dravus*, *Savus*, *Tibisnus*, and divers others) changeth his name into this of *Humberabus*, as the old Geographers call it.

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4. *Medway*, a Kentish River, famous for harbouring the royal Navy.

5. *Tweed*, north east bound of *England*, on whose northerne banks is seated the strong and impregnable Town of *Barwick*.

6. *Tine*, famous for *Newcastle* and her inexhaustible coal-pits. These and the rest of principal note are thus comprehended in one of Mr. *Draytons* Sonnets.

*The floods: queen Thames for ships & swans is crown'd
And stately Severn for her shore is prais'd,
The Christal Trent for fords and fish renown'd,
And Avons fame to Albions cliffs is rais'd,
Carlegion Chester vants her holy Dee,
York many wonders of her Ouse can tell,
The Peke her Dove, whose banks so fertil be,
And Kent will say her Medway doth excel.
Cotswoll commends her Isis to the Tame,
Our Northern borders boast of Tweeds fair Floud,
Our western parts extoll their Willies fame,
And the old Lea brags of the Danish bloud.*

These observations are out of learned Doctor *Heylin*, and my old deceased friend *Michael Drayton*; and because you say, you love such discourses as these of *fish* and *fishing*, I
love

love you the better, and love the more to impart them to you; nevertheless, *Scholer*, if I should begin but to name the several sorts of strange fish that are usually taken in many of these rivers that run into the Sea, I might beget wonder in you, or unbelief, or both; and yet I will venture to tell you a real truth concerning one lately dissected by Doctor *Wharton*, a man of great learning and experience, and of equal freedom to communicate it, one that loves me and my Art, one to whom I have been beholding for many of the choicest observations that I have imparted to you. This good man, that dares do any thing rather than tell an untruth, did (I say) tell me hee lately dissected one, and he thus described it to me.

He was almost a yard broad, and twice that length; his mouth wide enough to receive or take into it the head of a man; his stomach seven or eight inches broad, he is of a slow motion, and usually lyes or lurks close in the mud,

mud, and has a movable string on his head about a span, or neer unto a quarter of a yard long, by the moving of which (which is his natural bait) when he lyes close and unseen in the mud, he drawes other smaller fish close to him, and then sucks them into his mouth, and devours them.

And Scholer, do not wonder at this, for besides the credit of the Relater, you are to note, many of these, and fishes which are of the like, and more unusual shapes, are very often taken on the mouthes of our Sea-Rivers, and on the Sea shore; and this will be no wonder to any that have travelled *Egypt*, where 'tis known the famous River *Nilus* does not onely breed fishes that yet want names, but the overflowing of that River, by the help of the Suns heat on that fat slime which that *River* leaves on the banks (when it falls back into its natural channel) strange beasts are also bred, that no man can give a name to, as

Gre.

Grotius (in his *Sopham*) and others have observed.

But whither am I straid in this discourse? I will end it by telling you, that at the mouth of some of these rivers of ours Herrings are so plentiful, as namely neer to *Yarmouth* in *Norfolk* and in the west Country, Pilchers so very plentiful, as you will wonder to read what our learned *Cambden* relates of them in his *Brittania*, pag. 178. 186.

Well Scholer, I will stop here, and tell you what by reading and conference I have observed concerning Fish-ponds.

CHAP. XX.

Of Fish-Ponds, and how to order them.

DOCTOR *Lebault* the learned French man, in his large discourse of *Mason Rustique*, gives this Direction for making of *Fish-ponds*, I shall refer you to him to read it at large, but I think I shall contract it, and yet make it as useful.

He adviseth, that when you have drained the ground, and made the earth firme where the head of the Pond must be, that you must then in that place drive in two or three rowes of Oak or Elmé Piles, which should be scorcht in the fire, or half burnt
be.

before they be driven into the earth, (for being thus used, preserves them much longer from rotting) and having done so, lay fagots or bavins of smaller wood betwixt them, and then earth betwixt and above them, and then having first very well rammed them and the earth, another pile used in like manner as the first were; and note that the second pile is to be of, or about the height that you intend to make your Sluce or Floudgate, or the vent that you intend to shall convey the overflowings of your Pond in any Floud that shall indanger the breaking of the Pond Dam.

Then he advises that you plant Willowes or Owlers about it, or cast in' bavins in some places not far from the side, and in the most sandy places for fish both to spawn upon, and to defend them, and the young fry from the many fish; and also from Vermin that lye at watch to destroy them,

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them, especially the spawn of the *Carp* and *Tench*.

He and *Dubravius* and all others advise, that you make choice of such a place for your Pond, that it may be refresht with a little rill, or with rain water, running or falling into it; by which fish are more inclined both to breed, and are also refresht, and fed the better, and do prove to be of a much sweeter and more pleasant taste.

○ To which end, it is observed, that such Pools as be large and have most gravel, and shallows where *fish* may sport themselves, do afford fish of the purest taste. And note, that in all Pooles it is best for fish to have some retiring place; as namely, hollow banks, or shelves, or roots of trees to keep them from danger; and when they think fit from the extreme heat of Summer, as also from the extremity of cold in winter. And note, that if many trees be growing
ing

ing about your Pond, the leaves thereof falling into the water, makes it nautious to the fish, and the fish to be so to the eater of it.

'Tis noted, that the *Tench* and *Eele* love mud, and the *Carp* loves gravelly ground, and in the hot months to feed on grasse; you are to cleanse your Pond if you intend either profit or pleasure, once every three or four years, and then let them ly dry six or twelve months, both to kill the water-weeds, as *Water-Lillies*, *Candocks*, *Reate*, and *Bul-rushes* that breed there; and also, that as these dye for want of water, so grasse may grow on the Ponds bottom; which *Carp*s wil eat greedily in all the hot months. The letting your Pond dry, and sowing oats in the bottom is also good, for the fish feed the faster; and you may also observe what kind of fish either increases or thrives best in that water; for they differ much both in their breeding and feeding.

Lebault also advises, that if your
Q Ponds

Ponds be not very large and roomy, that you often feed your fish by throwing into them chipings of bread, curds, graines, or the Entrails of chickens, or any Fowle or Beast that you kill to feed your selvs; for these afford fish a great relief. He sayes, that Frogs and Ducks do much harm, and devour both the spawn and the young fry of all fish, especially of the Carp. And I have, besides experience, many Testimonies of it. But *Lebault* allowes Water Frogs to be good meat, especially in some Months, if they be fat; but you are to note, that he is a *Frenchman*, and wee *English* will hardly believe him, though we know frogs are usually eaten in his Country: however he advises to destroy them and King-fishers out of your Ponds; and he advises, not to suffer much shooting at wild fowle, for that (he saies) affrightens and harmes, and destroys the Fish.

Note, That Carps and Tench thrive

thrive and breed best when no other fish is put with them into the same Pond; for all other fish devour their spawn, or at least the greatest part of it. And note, that clods of grasse throwne into any Pond, feed any Carps in Summer; and that garden earth and parsley thrown into a Pond recovers and refreshes the sick fish. And note, that when you store your pond, you are to put into it two Melters for one Spawner, if you put them into a breeding Pond: but if into a nurse-pond, or feeding pond, in which they will not breed, then no care is to be taken, whether there be most Male or Female Carps.

It is observed, that the best ponds to breed Carps are those that be stonie or sandie, and are warm, and free from wind, and that are not deep, but have willow trees and grasse on their sides, over which the water does sometimes flow: and note, that Carps do more usually breed in new ponds, or ponds that lie dry a winter season,

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then in old Ponds, that be full of mud and weeds.

Well *Scholer*, I have told you the substance of al that either *observation*, or *discourse*, or a diligent *Survey* of *Dubravins* and *Lebault* hath told me. not that they in their long discourses have not said more, but the most of the rest are so common observations, as if a man should tell a good Arithmetition, that twice two is four. I will therefore end this discourse, and we will here sit down and rest us.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXI.

*Directions for making of a Line,
and for the colouring of both
Rod and Line.*

Pisc. **W**ELL, Scholer, I have held you too long about these *cadis*, & smaller *fish*, and *rivers*, and *Fish-ponds*, and my spirits are almost spent, and so I doubt is your patience; but being we are now almost at *Totenham*, where I first met you, and where we are to part, I will lose no time, but give you a little direction how to make and order your Lines, and to colour the hair of which you make your lines, for that is very
Q 3 needful.

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needful to be known of an Angler ; and also how to paint your rod ; especially your top, for a right grown top is a choice Commodity , and should be preserved from the water soaking into it, which makes it in wet weather to be heavy, and fish ill favouredly, and not true, and also it rots quickly for want of painting.

But first for your line.

First note, That you are to take care, that your haire be round, and free from galls or scabs, or frets, for a well-chosen, even, clear, round haire, of a kind of glasse-colour, will prove as strong as three uneven scabby haire, that are ill chosen , and full of galls or unevenness. You shall seldome find a black hair but it is round, but many white are flat and uneven ; therefore if you get a lock of right, round, clear, glass colour hair make much of it.

And for making your *Line*, observe this rule, First, let your hair be
clean

clean washt ere you go about to twist it : and then chuse not only the clearest hair for it, but hairs that be of an equal bignesse, for such do usually stretch altogether, and not break singly one by one, but altogether.

When you have twisted your links lay them in water for a quarter of an hour, at least, and then twist them over again before you tye them into a Line ; for those that do not so, shal usually find their Lines to have a hair or two shrink, and be shorter then the rest at the first fishing with it, which is so much of the strength of the Line lost for want of first watering it, and then re-twisting it ; and this is most visibible in a seven hair line, with one of them black in the middle.

And for dying of your hairs do it thus :

Take a pint of strong Ale, halfe a pound of soot, and a little quantity of

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the juice of *Walnut*-tree leaves, and an equal quantity of *Allome*, put these together into a pot, or pan, or pipkin, and boile them half an hour, and having so done, let it cool, and being cold, put your hair into it, and there let it lie; it will turn your hair to be a kind of water or glass colour, or greenish, and the longer you let it lye, the deeper coloured it will be; you might be taught to make many other colors, but it is to little purpose; for doubtless the water or glass coloured haire is the most choice and most useful for an *Angler*; but let it not be too green.

But if you desire to colour haire greener, then do it thus: Take a quart of smal Ale, halfe a pound of *Allome*, then put these into a pan or pipkin, and your haire into it with them, then put it upon a fire and let it boil softly for half an hour, and then take out your haire, and let it dry, and having so done, then take
a pot-

a pottle of water, and put into it two handful of Mary-golds, and cover it with a tile, or what you think fit, and set it againe on the fire, where it is to boile softly for halfe an hour, about which time the scum will turne yellow, then put into it half a pound of Copperas beaten small, and with it the haire that you intend to colour, then let the hair be boiled softly till half the liquor be wasted, and then let it cool three or four hours with your haire in it; and you are to observe, that the more Copperas you put into it, the greener it will be, but doubtlesse the pale green is best; but if you desire yellow hair (which is only good when the weeds rot) then put in the more *Mary-golds*, and abate most of the *Copperas*, or leave it out, and take a little Verdigreece in stead of it.

This for colouring your hair. And as for painting your rod, which must

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be in Oyl, you must first make a size with glue and water, boyled together until the glue be dissolved, and the size of a lye colour; then strike your size upon the wood with a bristle brush or pensil, whilst it is hot: that being quite dry, take white lead, and a little red lead, and a little cole black, so much as altogether will make an ash colour; grind these all together with Linseed oyle, let it be thick, and lay it thin upon the wood with a brush or pensil, this do for the ground of any colour to lie upon wood.

For a Green.

Take Pink and Verdigreece, and grind them together in Linseed oyle, as thick as you can well grind it, then lay it smoothly on with your brush, and drive it thin, once doing for the most part will serve, if you lay it well, and be sure your first colour be through-

thoroughly dry, before you lay on a second.

Well, Scholer, you now see *Tottingham*, and I am weary, and therefore glad that we are so near it; but if I were to walk many more dayes with you, I could still be telling you more and more of the mysterious Art of Angling; but I will hope for another opportunity, and then I will acquaint you with many more, both necessary and true observations concerning fish and fishing: but now no more, lets turne into yonder Arbour, for it is a cleane and cool place.

Venat. 'Tis a fair motion, and I will requite a part of your courtesies with a bottle of *Sack* and *Milk*, and *Oranges* and *Sugar*, which all put together, make a drink like Nectar, indeed too good for any body, but us *Anglers*: and so Master, here is a full glass to you of that liquor, and when you have pledged!

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pledged me, I will repeat the Verses which I promised you; it is a copy printed amongst Sir *Henry Wottons* Verses, and doubtlesse made either by him, or by a lover of Angling: Come Master, now drink a glasse to me, and then I will pledge you, and fall to my repetition; it is a description of such Country recreations as I have enjoyed since I had the happinesse to fall into your company.

*Quivering fears, heart tearing cares,
Anxious sighes, untimely tears,
Fly, fly to Courts,
Fly to fond worldlings sports,
Where strain'd Sardonick smiles are glosing still,
And grief is forc'd to laugh against her will.
Where mirths but mummary,
And sorrowes only real be.*

*Fly from our Country pastimes, fly,
Sad troops of humane misery,
Come serene looks,
Clear as the Christal Brooks,
Or the pure azur'd heaven that smiles to see
The Rich attendance on our poverty;*

Peace

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Peace and a secure mind
Which all men seek, we onely finde.

Abused Mortals, did you know
Where joy, hearts-ease, and comforts grow,
You'd scorn proud Towers,
And seek them in these Bowers,
Where winds sometimes our woods perhaps may shake,
But blustering care could never tempest make,
Nor murmurs ere come nigh us,
Saving of Fountains, that glide by us.

Here's no fantastick Mask nor Dance,
But of our Kids, that frisk and prance;
Nor wars are seen,
Unlesse upon the green
Two harmlesse Lambs are butting one the other,
Which done, both bleating, run each to his mother.
And wounds are never found,
Save what the Plough-share gives the ground.

Here are no entrapping bats
To hasten too too bastic fates;
Unlesse it be
The fond credulitie
Of silly fish, which (worldling like) still look
Upon the bait, but never on the hook:
Nor envie, 'nlesse among
The birds, for price of their sweet Song.

Go, let the diving Negro seek
For Gems hid in some forlon creek:
Wee all Pearls scorn,
Save what the dewy morn

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Congeals upon each little spire of grasse,
Which carelesse Shepherds bear down as they passe:
And Gold ne're here appears,
Save what the yellow Ceres bears.

Blest silent Groves, oh may you be
For ever Mirth's best nursery:

May pure contents

For ever pitch their tents

Upon these downs, these meads, these rocks, these moun- (tains,

And Peace still slumber by these purling fountains;

Which wee may every year

Find when we come a fishing here.

Pisc. Trust me (Scholer) I thank you heartily for these Verses, they be choicely good, and doubtlesse made by a lover of Angling: Come, now drink a glasse to me, and I will requite you with a very good Copie of Verses; it is a Farewell to the vanities of the World; and some say, written by Dr. D. But let them be writ by whom they will, he that writ them had a brave soul, and must needs be possesst with happie thoughts at the time of their composure: and I hope he was an Angler.

Farewell!

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Farewell ye gilded follies, pleasing troubles ;
 Farewell ye honour'd rags, ye glorious bubbles :
 Fame's but a hollow eccho, Gold pure clay ;
 Honour the darling but of one short day.
 Beautie (th' eyes idol) but a damask'd skin ;
 State but a golden prison, to live in,
 And torture free-born minds : imbroydred Trains
 Meerly but pageants for proud swelling veins :
 And Blood ally'd 'to Greatnesse is alone
 Inherited, not purchas'd, nor our own.

Fame, Honour, Beauty, State, Train, Blood and Birth
 Are but the fading Blossoms of the earth.

I would be great, but that the Sun doth still
 Levell his rayes against the rising hill :
 I would be high, but see the proudest Oak
 Most subject to the rending Thunder-stroak :
 I would be rich, but see men (too unkind)
 Dig in the bowels of the richest mind :
 I would be wise, but that I often see
 The Fox suspected, whilst the Ass goes free :
 I would be fair, but see the fair and proud
 (Like the bright Sun) oft setting in a cloud.
 I would be poor, but know the humble grasse
 Still trampled on by each unworthy Ass :
 Rich, hated ; wise, suspected ; scorn'd if poor ;
 Great, fear'd ; fair, tempted ; high, still envy'd more :
 I have wish'd all ; but now I wish for neither ;
 Great, high, rich, wise, nor fair ; poor I'll be rather.

Would the world now adopt me for her heir,
 Would Beauties Queen entitle me the Fair,
 Fame speak me Fortunes Minion : could I vie
 Angels with India, with a speaking eye
 Command bare heads, bow'd knees, strike Justice dum
 As well as blind and lame, or give a tongue
 To stones by Epitaphs ; be call'd great Master
 In the loose Rhimes of every Poetaster :

Could

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Could I be more then any man that lives,
Great, fair, rich, wise in all Superlatives ;
Yet I more freely would these gifts resign,
Then ever Fortune would have made them mine ;
~~And~~ And hold one minute of this holy leisure
~~Beyond~~ Beyond the riches of this empty pleasure.

Welcome pure thoughts, welcome ye silent Groves,
These guests, these courts my soul most dearly loves :
Now the wing'd people of the skie shall sing
My cheerfull Anthems to the glad som Spring :
A Pray'r-book now shall be my looking-glasse,
In which I will adore sweet Vertue's face.
Here dwell no hatefull looks, no Palace cares,
No broken Vows dwell here, nor pale fac'd Fears :
Then here I'll sit and sigh my hot loves folly,
And learn t' affect an holy melancholy.
And if Contentment be a stranger then,
I'll ne'r look for it, but in heaven again.

Venat. Well Master, these Verses
be worthie to keep a room in every
mans memorie. I thank you for them;
and I thank you for your many in-
structions, which (God willing) I wil
not forget: and as *S^t Austin* in his
Confessions (*book 4. chap. 3.*) com-
memorates the kindness of his friend
Verecundus, for lending him and his
companion a *Country house*, because
there they rested themselves from the
troubles.

troubles of the world ; so I having had the like advantage, both by your conversation, and the Art you have taught me, ought ever to do the like : for indeed your company and discourse have beene so useful and pleasant, that I may truly say, *I have only lived since I enjoyed them, and turned Angler.* Neverthelesse, here I must part with you ; here in this very place where I was so happy as first to meet you : But I shall long for the ninth of *May*, for then I hope again to enjoy your beloved company, at the appointed time and place. And now I wish for some somniferous potion, that might force me to sleep away the intermitted time, which will passe away with me as tediously, as it does with men in sorrow ; nevertheless, I will make it as short as I can by my *hopes* and *wishes*. And my good Master, I will not forget the Doctrine which you told me *Socrates* taught his Scholers,
That

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That they should not think to be honoured so much for being Philosophers, as to honour Philosophy by their virtuous lives. You advised me to the like concerning *Angling*, and I will endeavor to do so, and to live like those many *worthy men* of which you made mention in the former part of your discourse. This is my firm resolution; and as a pious man advised his friend, *That to beget Mortification, he should frequent Churches, and view Monuments, and Charnel-houses, and then and there consider, how many dead bones time had pil'd up at the gates of death.* So when I would beget content, and increase confidence in the *Power, and Wisdom, and Providence* of Almighty God, I will walk the *Meadows* by some gliding stream, and there contemplate the *Lillies* that take no care, and those very many various little living *creatures* that are not only created, but fed (man knowes not how) by the good-

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goodnesse of the God of Nature.
This is my purpose, and so, *Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord.* And now the blessing of St. Peters Master be with mine.

Pisc. And the like be upon my honest ingenuous *Scholer*, and upon all that love *Vertue*, and to be quiet; and go a *fishing*.

1 Thes. 4. 11. *Study to be quiet.*

FINIS.

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